



# Pensions crisis threatens services

The trend towards early retirement has cost local councils an extra £3.8bn in six years, reports Nicholas Wood

MINISTERS are to come under fresh pressure to confront a town hall pensions crisis which threatens to wreck vital services and increase council tax bills. A report from the Audit Commission will urge the Government to tighten up on early retirement deals for senior council bureaucrats.

It finds that early retirement has now become the norm, with only 20 per cent of staff leaving after the expected 40 years of service. And it reveals over the past six years such deals have lumbered town hall pension funds with an extra £3.8 billion of liabilities, which will ultimately fall on taxpayers.

The cost of letting a senior council executive leave 10 years early can be £300,000, according to a draft copy of the report passed to *The Times*. It says: "There is no doubt that wide-

spread use of early retirement as a tool for change has created pensions which will increase employers' pension costs in the future."

"While the consequences of past actions will be inevitable in the future, there are real opportunities to control future use of early retirement and prevent further aggravation of what is already a difficult situation for many authorities."

The Commission wants councils to make an up-front payment to pension funds when they approve an early retirement deal — so ensuring that the long-term costs are not swept under the carpet and that councillors are kept fully in the picture. This would relieve the strain on pension funds while threatening immediate tax increases or cuts elsewhere.

The Commission's report will also trigger wider alarm about the financial

plight of public sector pensions. It has already warned of a "pensions timebomb" threatening fire services.

Similar difficulties confront the police. Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police commissioner, claimed that the pensions burden had been one of the reasons for a cut of 668 officers in London during 1997-99.

Senior figures in local government are now calling for urgent action from ministers to plug mounting shortfalls in pension funds. Tony Ritchie, Labour leader of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, said: "We may move towards being more a pensions authority than a fire authority. In revenue terms and provision of services, it's very serious."

Peter Scales, chairman of the pensions panel of Cipa, the main professional body for public sector

accountants, said: "The more firemen that retire, the more fire engines that have to come off the road."

Unlike the local government scheme covering 2 million people, fire and police pensions are unfunded. This means that all costs have to be met from contributions from employees and employers. Any shortfall has to be met by employers, who can only recoup the money by squeezing services or putting up taxes.

The Audit Commission has already warned that the mismatch between income and expenditure for firemen's pensions is growing alarmingly. It found that in 10 years, 25 per cent of fire brigade budgets will be siphoned off to pay the service's mounting number of pensioners. Police budgets are also being eaten up by the growing demand for

pensions. On average, 16 per cent of police budgets go on pensions, but in some areas, such as North Yorkshire, the figure is 23 per cent. Money earmarked for employing extra officers and buying new equipment is being soaked up by spiralling pension costs.

Ken Rose, general manager of the association of chief fire officers, said:

"The deficit on pensions is increasing at an alarming rate and it's a major problem for local authorities. The increase in the pensions deficit is almost uncontrollable."

Martin Chapman, deputy chief fire officer in Dorset, added: "Most brigades do have a pensions timebomb that is steadily mounting."

He added that in his area, no worse than most, £2 million of the £15.5 million budget was going on paying firefighters' pensions.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cult members move along from beach

Followers of a German cult who clashed with police last week after invading a Cornish beach vanished under cover of darkness within hours of receiving notices ordering them to leave. Most members of the Hors Schaffrauk Evangelical movement left the National Trust-owned Loe Bar, near Helston, on Saturday and are believed to have returned to Germany.

A dozen, however, moved their vehicles a mile away to another National Trust site at Bereperry, their fourth illegal occupation in two weeks. Trust officials plan no immediate action, believing the group is waiting for the release of cult members held in custody after court appearances on Friday. Robin Howard, countryside manager, said: "We hope they will leave of their own accord."

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### Mandelson to face court

Peter Mandelson is being called as a witness in a fraud case against Bernard Carr, his election agent at the 1992 general election. Mr Carr, a councillor and a former Labour Party chairman at Hartlepool, denies eight charges over council expenses involving £732. No date has been fixed for the trial at Teesside Crown Court, but the Minister without Portfolio has been asked to give evidence.

### Greenpeace four held

Police removed four Greenpeace protesters after a week-long occupation of the BP rig *Stena Dee*, off the Shetland Islands. A fifth was believed to have boarded the vessel *MV Greenpeace*. Grampian Police said that officers were "inquiries into the activities of activists in and around the installation". The protest against the Foinaven field had been due to end for reasons of safety and logistics.

### Dunblane game halted

A teacher wounded in the Dunblane school shooting called for Internet material to be monitored, after a game called *Dunblane Massacre* was discovered on a Virgin Net site. Virgin has apologized and cut off the subscriber who created it. Eileen Harrild, whose right hand was injured last year, said: "I am concerned that these things are maybe not monitored as carefully as they should be."

### Asthma linked to storms

The number of asthmatics admitted to hospital can rise by almost half when thunderstorms combine with a high pollen count. Asthma admissions in 14 areas across England were recorded in a study published by the British Thoracic Society. It is believed that humidity in a thunderstorm causes pollen grains to break, releasing starch granules which trigger asthma attacks.

### Canoeist feared dead

Coastguards told water-sports enthusiasts to carry proper equipment after Mark Cheyne, 36, of Aberdeenshire, was feared drowned when his canoe capsized 150 yards from Aberdeen beach on Saturday evening. His companion, Douglas Bennett, 23, swam ashore suffering from exposure and exhaustion. Coastguards said that the men were not wearing lifejackets and were dressed only in T-shirts and shorts.

### Drug clue to car killing

A man was shot several times as he sat in his parked car in a part of Bedford popular with drug dealers. The man, 31, who has not been identified, was killed shortly after 2am yesterday. Several shots were fired through the driver's door of the Ford Fiesta XR2. Detective Chief Superintendent Bill King, of Bedfordshire Police, said: "We are looking to see if the shooting was drug-related."

### Double murder charge

A man has been charged with murdering a couple he was visiting at the weekend. Mark Nash, 24, was accused at a court in Galway of killing Carl and Catherine Doyle, both 28, of Ballintubber, Co Roscommon. They had four children, one of whom witnessed the murder. Mr Nash was also charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Mrs Doyle's sister, Sarah Jane. He was remanded in custody.

### Artist thinks big

An sculptor who wants to carve a 2.275ft naked man on a granite outcrop near Oban says that he will take his proposal to America if Argyll and Bute council fails to support him. Alexander Stoddart, 38, from Glasgow, says that the image of the legendary Gaels bard Ossian, reputed to have lived around 300 AD, could take up to 40 years and would be "one of the wonders of the world".

### Jail songster ticked off

A prison officer has been disciplined for serenading inmates at Wakefield top-security jail with pop songs. Del Marshall, 33, a prison officer for seven years, was overheard singing Oasis's *Roll With It* as he patrolled a wing. Colleagues have defended Mr Marshall and said he should have received a commendation for remaining cheerful.

# Violence on video brings pressure for regulation

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary is facing growing pressure to tighten up regulations covering the sale and distribution of videos in the wake of new suggestions of links between violence on screen and the behaviour of offenders.

Jack Straw is to receive research findings in October which suggest that aggressive people are more likely to commit violent acts more frequently after watching videos than non-aggressive youngsters. The two-year study has compared the reactions of violent and non-violent offenders with non-offenders to see whether they remember or respond to violent or sexual incidents in video films. They were monitored immediately after the screening and after three and nine months.

The study used a sample of 120 youths, including young offenders, aged 15-21. A follow-up study is to see whether their reaction to video films affect the type and nature of subsequent criminal behaviour and offending.

The research, which has been carried out by Dr Kevin Browne of Birmingham University, suggests that violent and non-violent offenders re-

act differently, with violent offenders more likely to remember graphic details of brutal acts shown on film.

Alun Michael, a Home Office minister of state, said: "The more you see on television or video incidents of violence, the less shocking it becomes. One would like to know whether there are some people who are particularly vulnerable to the images they see on video. There are a lot of portrayals of violence which have very little influence."

The question is whether some people are more vulnerable to portrayals and don't make the distinction between fiction and reality."

Last night Professor Elizabeth Newson of the child development research unit at Nottingham University said the findings confirmed work carried out in the USA. The research will put pressure on the government to bring in new restrictions and tighter censorship of films and videos.

Jack Straw was yesterday accused by a Conservative Home Office spokesman of being soft on crime after giving the go-ahead for a feasibility study of allowing thousands of prisons to have television in their cells.



Ed Mirvish who fought off Lord Lloyd-Webber to buy the Old Vic Theatre

# Trimble to discuss peace with Catholic Church

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, the Ulster Unionist leader, will hold his first formal meeting with the leader of the Irish Catholic church within the next three weeks to discuss participation in the Northern Irish talks.

Mr Trimble and a delegation from the Ulster Unionist Party will meet Sean Brady, the Catholic Primate of All Ireland and Archbishop of Armagh, to ascertain whether they should enter talks on the future of Northern Ireland with Sinn Fein. The talks begin in Stormont Castle on September 15 and Sinn Fein will be allowed entry if the

IRA ceasefire called last month is still in place.

The meeting between Mr Trimble and Dr Brady will take place at the Archbishop's residence in Ara Coeli in Armagh city. It is the latest in a series of high profile moves by the UUP to engage with Catholics in Northern Ireland.

Last week, Ken Maguire, the party's security spokesman, debated on BBC television with Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein.

Reg Empey, a member of the Ulster Unionist negotiating team at Stormont said yesterday that the meeting

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# Test cricket TV rights

Continued from page 1  
academy, then just take us off the listed events and allow us to negotiate for ourselves."

Asked if the Government would agree to Lord MacLaurin's demands to sell Test cricket to the highest bidder, Mr Smith said that he did not want to pre-empt any decision which would have to be taken by Parliament.

He disclosed that the Government was reconsidering all the eight sports Crown Jewels which have to be shown on terrestrial television, but refused to speculate on their future. Those events are the FA Cup Final, the Olympics, the Grand National, The Derby, Wimbledon finals weekend, home cricket Test matches and the Scottish FA Cup Final and the Football

World Cup final.

Labour's reviewing the list is a U-turn: earlier this year it opposed any moves to take items off the list and asked for others to be included.

The BBC holds a £60m contract to show 180 hours of Test cricket a year over four years, but its contract expires next year.

Sport is the most lucrative area for subscription channels.

The satellite broadcaster BSkyB, for instance,

is said to be ready to offer more than £1 billion for exclusive European rights to the Olympic Games between 2000 and 2008.

Under the current contract, cricket coverage is shared

between the BBC and BSkyB, which is part owned by News International which also owns

*The Times*. The BBC covers all

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# Queen urged to boycott Amritsar

India's Prime Minister wants the coming state visit to miss out the scene of the 1919 Sikhs massacre.

Christopher Thomas reports

THE Queen's state visit to India and Pakistan has been thrown into disarray after India's Prime Minister appealed for her to abandon a planned trip to the site of one of the worst massacres inflicted during British rule.

Buckingham Palace officials, who toured India last month to make final preparations for the visit marking 50 years of the country's independence, had agreed in principle with their Indian hosts that the tour should include a visit to Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs, and its Golden Temple.

In 1919, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer ordered his men to open fire on a dense crowd of unarmed demonstrators in the city, killing 379 people and injuring more than 1,000. The incident was a milestone in India's quest for independence.

Yesterday, Inder Kumar Gujral was quoted as saying that it would be better if the



Dyer: ordered the Amritsar massacre

Queen did not visit Amritsar at all. Palace and Foreign Office sources said they would be seeking clarification of the Prime Minister's remarks from the Indian Government.

The same sources said that, until now, the Indians had foreseen no difficulty in the Queen visiting one of the major cities of the Punjab, which was long closed to tourists because of local unrest. They believe, however, that the Indians fear a political protest during the state visit, with Punjabis, including descendants of those shot during the massacre, demanding an apology from the Queen for the actions of a British officer nearly 80 years ago.

"The Prime Minister's reported remarks do not entirely fit with what we have been given to understand by the Indian Government," one Foreign



The Queen casts a lingering look at the Royal Yacht Britannia after disembarking at Aberdeen yesterday for the last time. She then drove with other members of the Royal Family to Balmoral. Below: Peter and Zara Phillips and Princess Beatrice stand at the rail, ready to disembark.



moned. British hands are cleaner than India's in Amritsar," he said last night.

Gurbux Virk, editor of the Sikh newspaper *Des Pardes*, said the large Sikh community in Southall, west London, had been angered by Mr Gujral's comments. "We feel it is an honourable thing for the Sikhs that the Queen is coming to

Amritsar," he said last night. "The Indians do not want the Queen to visit because they do not want us to have the honour." He said there was no need for a formal apology for 1919. "It is up to her if she wants to do that."

Joginder Singh Patar, president of the temple in Chapeitown, Leeds, said the

Queen's visit was an opportunity that must not be allowed to pass. "I think it is a gesture of friendship," he said. "British Sikhs feel that here is a chance to strengthen the ties between our two communities.

In his newspaper interview, the Prime Minister said: "We have suggested as a government to the British that it

would be much better if she with equal numbers of engagements of equal importance in each country. The Queen is expected to spend five days in each country.

Some Sikhs, a martial race with a keen sense of history, also want the Queen to address the question of ownership of the Koh-i-Noor, the world's largest diamond be

for it was cut. It is the centrepiece of the Queen Mother's Crown. The "mountain of light" was acquired 150 years ago after the Sikh empire was defeated by the British. Prakash Singh Badal, the Punjab Chief Minister, has demanded the diamond's return, saying it belongs to the Sikh people.

## Princess adds religious twist to an earthly tale

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

IN THE finest traditions of soap opera, it has centred on sex, money and betrayal. Yesterday a sprinkling of religion was added to the saga surrounding Dodi Fayed and Diana, Princess of Wales, when it emerged that she had asked to interrupt her holiday sailing around the Greek islands to meet the leader of the Greek Orthodox church.

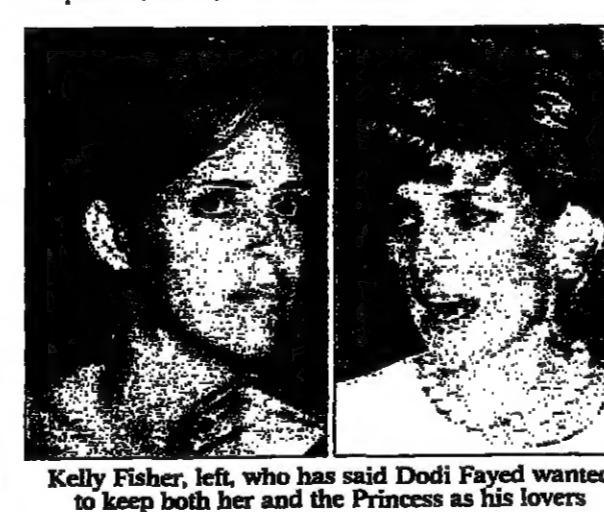
The Princess, who is taking her third holiday in a month, is said to have asked to meet Bartholomew I while he was visiting the island of Chios in the Aegean. However, if her request was granted, it was kept secret.

Meanwhile Kelly Fisher — the model who is alleging that she is the spurned fiancée of

millionaire playboy's child. When she discovered that he had been seeing the Princess, Ms Fisher claimed that Mr Fayed asked: "Can't we work this out?"

While the Princess would be publicly paraded as his partner, she would remain his "secret sexual relationship", claimed the model, who described the suggestion as "repugnant".

In another twist in the story it emerged yesterday that Mr Fayed has a double. The imposter has seduced women, offered roles in films to movie stars and run up debts while claiming to be the Harrods heir. Mohamed Sead, a merchant seaman, is reported to be serving a two-



Kelly Fisher, left, who has said Dodi Fayed wanted to keep both her and the Princess as his lovers

year prison sentence in Canada for impersonation.

Mr Fayed received some support yesterday from his ex-wife. In an interview published in the *Independent on Sunday*, Suzanne Gregard alleged that Ms Fisher had told her she had broken off the relationship with Mr Fayed two weeks before she launched her lawsuit.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

IF THE House of Windsor thought it had problems, it could take comfort yesterday from another royal scandal in which Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark was photographed diving naked into the family swimming pool.

The pictures, which leave little to the imagination and are spread over a Swedish tabloid, are accompanied by text saying that they had snubbed Buckingham Palace by turning down a two-hour television extravaganza devised by Prince Edward to celebrate the Queen's golden wedding anniversary on November 19. The corporation said it had its own plans.

Stockholm's *Aftonbladet* last Thursday showed photographs of Queen Margrethe's

eldest son, 29, the heir to the Danish throne, diving from a window of a castle in southwest France with the caption: "What would Mummy say? Crown Prince Frederik?"

Denmark's biggest-selling tabloid, *Ekstra Bladet*, responded: "The mighty Swedish *Aftonbladet* newspaper has made a declaration of war against Denmark."

The Danish popular press tends to treat its Royal Family with respect, but the focus has intensified on Prince Frederik, a bachelor, since his younger brother, Prince Joachim, 28, married Alexandra Manley, a Hong Kong British citizen, in 1995. Montell and Prince Frederik "eloped" to Vietnam in May, sidestepping

the paparazzi at Bangkok airport, when the Prince headed a trade mission to Thailand.

In the latest scandal, Danish newspapers published more sedate pictures of the couple in swimwear, shot by the same French photographer from outside the grounds of the Chateau de Caix, near Cahors, owned by the Prince's French-born father, Prince Henrik.

Even those pictures caused something of a stir in Denmark, where publication of such pictures is rare. Although taking photographs of people on private property is an offence under Danish law, the royal court would take no action, a palace official said.

"They said you'd been with someone else...I don't care...this is love."

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## Trick or treat shows chimps know how to keep a secret



Chimps will keep their mouths shut about food

CHIMPANZEES can work out when companions are unaware of danger, then go out of their way to issue warnings. Their ability to show empathy has reinforced the view that chimps are closer to humans than they are to other primates.

They can also realise that a companion is unaware of a nearby stash of food — and keep the secret to themselves. The new observations, described at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, have not been seen in rhesus or Japanese macaque monkeys. Professor Sally

Boysen of Ohio State University tested three pairs of chimpanzees in a colony at the university.

Two adult males, Kermit and Darrell, who have known each other for 18 years, produced the most clear-cut results, although two females and mixed pair followed the same pattern. The tests involved hiding either a treat — a few grapes — or a threat in such a way that only one was aware of it. The objects were hidden in the next-door cage in full view of one

of the chimpanzees, while the other was kept away in a room near by. Professor Boysen wanted to establish whether the chimpanzee who knew the secret would realise that the other was unaware, and what he would then do. The test with the grapes produced no shared information.

"You wouldn't expect it to work with the food, since no chimpanzee is going to willingly inform another about the presence of food that they themselves don't have

access to" said Professor Boysen. For a threat, a researcher carrying a tranquilliser dart hid in the next-door cage. All the animals had experience of the darts and saw the researcher as a predator. This produced a very different result.

When Kermit was released into the cage where the researcher with the dart was hiding, Darrell became very agitated. He turned to Kermit with fear grumes and alarm noises, while his hand stood on end all over his body. Kermit

then produced the same fear responses and left the cage, having effectively been tipped off that it was dangerous.

Professor Boysen said: "Based on what we believe about the emergence of these skills in humans, this suggests that Darrell, in a sense, put himself in Kermit's place. I think Darrell was aware that Kermit couldn't have known that the predator was there."

When the experiment was repeated in such a way that both

animals were aware of the potential threat, neither reacted in such a striking way. "They responded dramatically when the threat was present but only when the other animal in the pair was uninformed" she said.

"This suggests that one chimp does recognise the different knowledge state in the other chimp. Darrell didn't know what the predator was going to do, so he had to make a prediction, a rapid assessment of the situation. He made the decision that there would be trouble if he didn't let Kermit know about the predator."

## Cartoon sexism bugs women in search of heroes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BUGS BUNNY is corrupting young American minds by reinforcing gender stereotypes, two psychologists complained at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association at the weekend.

In the interests of science, Cynthia Spicher and Dr Mary Hudak, from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, watched episodes from a range of cartoons shown regularly on American Saturday morning television. They concluded that there are four times as many male characters in the cartoon world as female ones. Worse still, the males were active and dominant, while the females were droopy and characterless.

"Male characters are powerful, strong, smart, aggressive and so on," Dr Hudak told the meeting in Chicago. "Occasionally there's a token female character, but she's like lime jelly — she's bland."

The researchers categorised 118 cartoon characters from a single episode of the top eight cartoon shows: *The Bugs Bunny/Tweety Show, Aladdin, Ninja Turtles, The Mask, Eekstravaganza, Spiderman, Tuck and Life with Louie*. The characters were rated according to their sex, prominence, gender stereotyping, aggressive behaviours and occupational roles.

The male characters were

much more likely to be in positions of authority — as policemen, guards, soldiers, pilots or bouncers. There were only two female-dominated occupations: nurses and telephone operators. Female characters sometimes appeared as doctors, scientists and police officers, but also popped up as housewives, princesses and bathing beauties.

Male characters, by contrast, were space commanders, hunters, crimefighters and street rats. They were also at the centre of action, as aggressors, victims or both. Many were involved in arguments, "providing questionable images for young viewers," though the researchers accepted and roles," the researchers said.

"Cartoons are one of the many cultural influences on the young, yet they can hardly be conceived to be trivial in their influence. Entertainment in all its forms is embedded in the larger cultural milieu. As such, it says something about what is valued and understood in the particular culture it comments on."

"Cartoons, in their current state, are depicting significant differences in the status, behaviour, and capabilities of female and male characters. Thus, cartoons tell cultural stories that cannot tell but inform young minds about what they are to become."

That's all, folks.

that this, at least, reflected the real world. Had they studied British television, they would have found that female characters have been outnumbered, outsmarted and outgunned for generations. The only female in *Bill and Ben* is the non-assertive Little Weed; Mari-

na rarely showed the same gallantry as her male colleagues in *Stingray*; and Mr Men tended to stick together. Lady Penelope was glamorous but sedate compared to the go-getting lads in *Thunderbirds* and Captain Scarlet did not leave much room for his angels. When confronted by sheep rustlers in *A Close Shave*, Gwendoline is left standing by the resourceful Grommit, a dog — but then so too is his owner, Wallace.

"Women's occupational roles have changed in rather pronounced ways over the past three decades, yet a mere sprinkling of female characters were shown in non-traditional occupations and roles," the researchers said.

"Cartoons, in their current state, are depicting significant differences in the status, behaviour, and capabilities of female and male characters. Thus, cartoons tell cultural stories that cannot tell but inform young minds about what they are to become."

That's all, folks.



Bugs Bunny is strong and smart, but cartoon women are too often bland

## Welsh told to give up sex for equality

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Equal Opportunities Commission has managed to de-sex the Welsh language.

The commission asked a leading linguist and academic to report on avoiding sex discrimination in Welsh, which has nouns of masculine and feminine gender, with adjectives and pronouns varied to agree with them. Her recommendations are to become the basis of a set of guidelines for employers, public utilities and local authorities.

The gender-ridden nature of the language has brought problems for employers and public bodies anxious to avoid infringing the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 while observing the requirements of the Welsh Language Act 1993. They have to use Welsh in all public communications, but equally have to avoid anything that might be considered sexist.

Since even the Welsh for manager, *(rheolwr)*, implies that the person involved is a man, this can be very tricky indeed. A secretary (*gyrifyndwr*) is always assumed to be female, and a coal miner (*gwaenor*) male.

Now Dr Gwenllian Awdre of the University of Wales, Cardiff, has provided a solution. She has shown how to avoid the pitfalls of the legislation by using the plural or both male and female forms in job adverts. and other

material.

Vai Feld, director of the Equal Opportunity Commission in Wales, said: "One simple way is to refer to someone as 'the successful candidate' rather than he or she."

The commission has been examining the impact of "gender specific" advertisements, finding that the language often complicates matters. For instance while a doctor (*meddyg*) in Welsh can be either male or female, an *athro* is a male teacher while a female teacher is *athrone*. Though *meddyg* refers to both men and women, it is always of masculine gender.

To get round secretarial discrimination, Dr Awbery suggests advertising for staff *ysgrifennyddol* (secretarial staff) or a *sefydys ysgrifennyddol* (secretarial post). An alternative, she suggests, is a neologism to denote a male secretary: *ysgrifennydd*. A *gyrrwr* (driver, male) could be partnered by a new female equivalent *gyrrwraig*.

Dr Awbery's other suggestions include using plural rather than the singular to allow reference to mixed groups of men and women without needing to specify their sex.

"The grammar is on the whole sensitive to gender only in the singular," Dr Awbery notes. "The plural takes very little note of gender."

## Rural group says towns can supply new housing

By MICHAEL HORNBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

VAST tracts of countryside are being needlessly used for housing because the availability of building sites in towns is being ignored, the Council for the Protection of Rural England claims today.

Urban sites that unexpectedly fall vacant often supply more than half the land for new homes, but local authorities make little allowance for this in their development plans, the CPRE says in a report published today.

Tony Burton, the organisation's assistant director, said: "Because windfall sites cannot be certainly identified in advance, most local authorities assume no contribution at all from such sites to their total housing requirement or greatly underestimate it."

Not only are greenfield sites in the countryside unnecessarily allocated for new housing, but urban windfall sites are then used as well, so that local authorities often end up overshooting their own targets. Once a greenfield site has been allocated, it is difficult to reverse a planning decision."

Windfall sites become available when, for example, an industrial site is vacated. The CPRE argues that local authorities can make a reasonable guess at the future contribution

of such land to their housing needs by keeping accurate records.

The report, commissioned by the CPRE from David Tyllesley and Associates, looked at the performance of 50 local authorities at county, district and metropolitan borough level. Only 24 of those surveyed kept substantive records of the contribution of urban windfall sites to housebuilding. Only 14 allowed for such sites in their development plans, and 11 of these hugely underestimated the actual supply of such land.

Local authorities are ham-

pered, the CPRE says, by a government rule prohibiting them from classifying as "windfall" any site larger than one hectare.

Yet past trends show that up to 20 per cent of the housing required by local plans comes from larger urban sites that fall vacant unexpectedly. "The government attitude is dictated by a desire to maintain pressure on local authorities to find more land for housing, based on inflexible long-term projections that are likely to overestimate the real need," Mr Burton said.

The CPRE has been campaigning against government plans to build 4.4 million homes by 2016. The plans are based not on significant population growth but on trends suggesting that more people will be living on their own. Green groups are dismayed that the new Government sees no case for revising this projection and is declining to endorse the Tories' pledge to build up to 75 per cent of the homes on reclaimed land in towns.

Nick Raynsford, the Planning Minister, said last month that it was not possible to find reclaimed sites to meet housing needs in the South of England, the area of biggest projected demand.

## Three days that mean the world to old men

TWO 108-year-old men are fiercely contesting who is the oldest man in Britain. Last week the *Guinness Book of Records* handed the title to George Cook of Surrey after the death of Vinson Gulliver, 109.

However, David Henderson of Laurencekirk, Mearns, claims he is three days older than Mr Cook.

Mr Henderson, who still runs a 1,000-acre farm, although he lives in a nursing home, has records that show he was born on June 14, 1889. Mr Cook was not born until June 17.

"There are not many of us about looking for these records," Mr Henderson said.

A *Guinness Book of Records* spokeswoman said she was looking into the matter. "We are waiting to receive documents such as a birth certificate from Mr Henderson's family which prove his age before we can comment. The whole process will depend on the speed at which his family send the documents to us."

## 'Warhead' will target tumours

A NEW kind of cancer-killing "nuclear missile", which can seek and destroy tumours with radiation, has been developed by scientists.

The weapon, devised by researchers at Nottingham University, is an antibody with a "warhead" in the form of a cancer-killing radioactive particle. Antibodies, part of the body's own defence system, are able to home in on tumours like a guided missile by locking on to a substance which occurs on the growth's surface. Radiotherapy can then be directed straight at a tumour, unlike a radiation beam, which also kills healthy cells in its path.

The technique was first

developed in the 1980s, but

antibody will not only hit primary targets, but also secondary cancers which develop in later stages of the disease. A special camera can be used to track the "missiles" as they home in.

Dr Denton added: "This

technique could be used on quite a number of cancers, such as breast, ovarian and bladder."

The treatment, news of which is reported in the *British Journal of Cancer*, will have to go through extensive trials before doctors can consider using it on patients.

□ A laptop computer containing a year's work by Professor David Newell, a leading cancer research scientist, has been stolen from his car outside a

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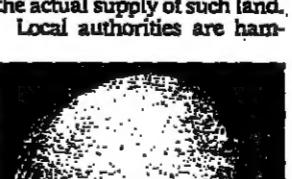
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# When art and industry shared the same frame

John Russell Taylor advises lovers of Victorian art to head for the industrial heartlands of the North

WITH the present level of interest in Victorian art, no major public gallery with any claims to comprehensiveness can afford to be without at least a few high points of 19th-century British painting. But the best collections were put together by Victorians acquiring what was, for them, sometimes dangerously modern art.

The great period for building museums and galleries in the regions was the second half of Victoria's long reign, and very often the building was largely funded by these selfsame collectors—especially industrialists who had acquired a taste for culture. All over England (Scottish benefactors had rather different priorities), spectacular assemblies of Victorian art are to be seen in spectacular Victorian buildings.

While not forgetting London's pride, the Tate Gallery, the discriminating Victorian-fancier would do well to bend his steps northward. A sensible place to start any such pilgrimage is Merseyside, since thereabouts are two of the unmissable shrines: the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight.

The Walker, inaugurated in 1877, offers a bold classical façade to the world but, within, the art is as much crabbled and gothic as Olympian in the Lord Leighton fashion, clothing Ancient Greek mythology in splendidly Victorian raiment. Its medievalising Pre-Raphaelites include Ford Madox Brown's *The Coat of Many Colours* and Rosetti's huge *Dante's Dream*. There are also two of the most famous Victorian story-paintings, Yeames's *And When Did You Last See Your Father?* and Poynter's *Faithful Unto Death*.

Although the Lady Lever Art Gallery, in a frilly classical style, was not opened

until 1922, its contents are primarily Victorian: the masterpieces include Holman Hunt's *The Scapegoat* and *May Morning on Magdalen Tower*, Millais's *Sir Isumbras Crossing the Ford*, and Leighton's luscious *The Garden of the Hesperides*.

Not so far away, in the opposite direction, is Manchester City Art Gallery. The grim, smoke-stained classical building conveys immediately a stern sense of purpose. Inside, it has been returned to its original, long-unashamedly polychromatic self. The gallery owns a wide range of Victorian painting, from every conceivable group and school, but the best known works are Millais's complex Hampstead allegory *Work*, Millais's *Autumn Leaves* and Holman Hunt's *The Hireling Shepherd*.

From here you could strike north to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, or south to Birmingham. The Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle, looking from most angles more like a set of Victorian business chambers than a city museum, is in many respects a

## NEXT

How the discovery of knickers and the seaside revolutionised Victorians' burgeoning spare time. The world of Victorian leisure.

□ *Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, 0151-207 0001; Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight, 0151-645 3623; Manchester City Art Gallery, 0161-238 5344; Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 0191-233 7734; Birmingham City Museum and Art Gallery, 0121-235 2334; Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth, 01202 451800.*



Holman Hunt's *The Light of the World*, at Keble College, Oxford: the artist's work shines in several museums, including The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight

# The shock of the new as rebels reject old order

WHEN Queen Victoria came to the throne in June 1837, Constable had been dead a couple of months, but Turner still had 14 years of work ahead of him. When Victoria was succeeded by Edward VII in January 1901, Leighton and Millais had been dead five years, having progressed from dangerous outsiders to being, in rapid succession, Presidents of the Royal Academy.

Sixty-four years is a long time in anyone's life, and in art it affords time for half a dozen revolutions. But not, surely, in the Victorian era, which we tend to see as solid and reliable? Actually, for most of the reign, it was none of those things. Although Victoria, through her long widowhood, became a national icon and re-emerged as a much-loved institution, we should not forget that her early years were alive with assassination threats and attempts at republican uprising.

In the same way, if art were to survive, it would have to allow the old to be replaced by the new. Turner, by any standard the most distinguished British painter active in the 1840s, was an ambiguous ally. He was immensely famous and exhibited regularly at the Academy, but people thought he was a little mad, and his later works, tending more and more to abstraction, were not understood.

Landseer, however, was understood. He rapidly became the favourite of Victoria, taught her how to draw and paint, then proceeded very profitably to travel the country painting monarchs of the gien and bloodthirsty scenes of the chase. But his dogs were cuddly and cute, and everyone loved him.

Prince Albert encouraged the painting of historical and improving murals for the Palace of Westminster.

just being rebuilt) as well as education in the applied arts. He liked the crisp outlines and muted colours of the Nazarenes, subsequently labelled German Pre-Raphaelites.

Of course, they could hardly be called that until the real original Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood had been formed and recognised. The grouping of earnest young rebels took place in 1848, with the encouragement of John Ruskin, who became the guru of Victorian art. The most important members were Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Millais and William Holman Hunt. They were genuine revolutionaries, vowed to overthrowing art and academicism in the name of *truth* and fidelity to the fact. Their art turned out to be something quite different, passing through super-realism to surrealism by the sheer mad intensity of its gaze.

Other threats to orthodoxy were coming from abroad. Ruskin and Burne-Jones became involved in a legal battle with the American Whistler. Ruskin accused him of throwing a pot of paint at the canvas; what he was describing was the British beginnings of Impressionism.



Turner: the old school had to be overthrown

# Setting a pattern for the future

The natural designs of William Morris seem timeless, says Alan Hamilton

WHEN, in 1857, Theodore Mander, a wealthy Wolverhampton paint manufacturer, built himself a new and luxurious home on the attractive Shropshire edge of the town, he demanded nothing but the best, the most fashionable and the most up-to-date in wallpaper and fabrics.

The job went to William Morris, and today Wightwick Manor displays probably the best collection in the country of the work of a designer that remains fresh, timeless and still in demand.

Yet all is not what it seems. Since the National Trust took over Wightwick in 1937, it has continuously added to Mander's original collection of fabrics and wallhangings, and occasionally replaced those that have become worn. Morris's Leicester wallpaper in the morning room is in fact Sandersons, c.1943; the bright nursery curtains are Habitat, 1968, and the red acanthus curtains in the drawing room are by John Lewis, 1994.

There is nothing wrong in this. It is merely proof that Morris designs, now long out of copyright, live on and are still hugely popular. Sandersons, which inherited the original wallpaper printing blocks when the firm of Morris and Co finally closed in 1939, has even occasionally hand-printed original paper. Monty Smith, the Trust's manager at Wightwick, explains the enduring Morris appeal. "His designs were a great reaction against the over-fussiness of the earlier Victorian period.

"They are based on natural

forms, but by comparison with what went before they are almost abstract, and therefore fit in with almost any period."

Wightwick is proof. The house itself is of medieval design, including a great hall, but the Morris material sits perfectly well in it.

The 17th-century chairs look as though they were meant for his fabrics, which cover them. The Morris carpets look at home on the woodblock floors and even his light fittings — among the earliest in any

private house in Britain — look right "suspended" from mock-medieval ceilings. They look terrific.

Wightwick Manor (National Trust, 3 miles W of Wolverhampton on A454 to Bridgnorth; up Wightwick Bank behind Mermaid Inn. Open Thurs and Sat only, 2.30-5.30. Pre-booked parties by arrangement, Wed and Thurs. Tel 01902-761108. Adults £5.00, children and students £2.50).

manners are complemented by an excellent collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings and drawings. They look terrific.

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William Morris: his work is still popular



# Hungerford remembers in silence



Town where 16 died in massacre ten years ago has rejected any commemoration service to mark the tragedy, reports Adrian Lee

THE tenth anniversary of the Hungerford massacre will pass quietly tomorrow with no memorial service in the Berkshire market town where Michael Ryan shot dead 16 people.

The overwhelming wish of the community, including relatives of the victims, was that nothing should be done to commemorate Ryan's killing spree on August 19, 1987, civic leaders said. A dedication service was held last month at the brick memorial bearing the names of the dead.

To keep the occasion private, there was no announce-

ment. Church leaders, school governors, town councillors, police and voluntary groups agonised for several weeks before it was decided that nothing should be done.

Ron Tarry, mayor of Hungerford at the time of the shootings, said: "Some people have said they wished there was a memorial service on the 19th. I have spoken informally to six or seven relatives and two wanted a service.

"I know that many of the relatives would not have attended. They do not want to be exposed again.

"We were in a very difficult position — nothing would have looked worse than just a few people turning up. We can remember the tragedy without any formal service."

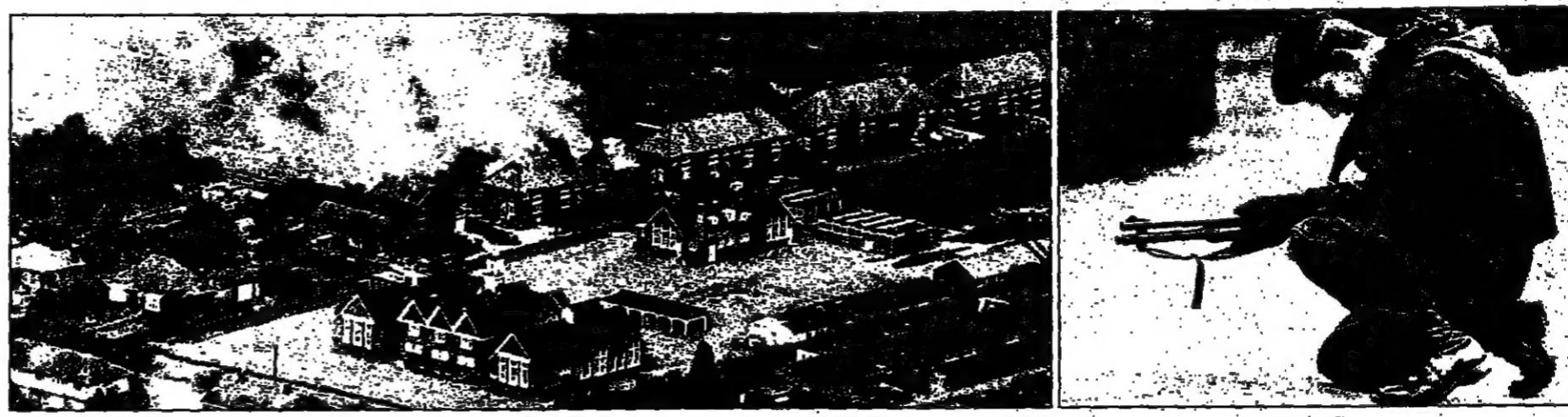
The present mayor, Paul Cable, said: "There was a fairly extensive debate. But it was felt that because there has been no requirement to mark previous anniversaries, why should the tenth year be any more significant?"

The Rev Andrew Sawyer, vicar of St Lawrence's church, where funeral services for some of the victims were held, said he respected the wishes of the community. He plans to say a few words on Sunday in memory of the dead as part of his normal service. "We feel it is best not to open up old wounds."

Nothing would please the people of Hungerford more



Hungerford remembered its dead at a memorial last month. Below, the town ten years ago. Ryan shot himself after he was trapped in the school by armed police



Below, the town ten years ago. Ryan shot himself after he was trapped in the school by armed police

than the anniversary to slip by without a film crew or journalist. Ten years ago, the media swamped the town and the intrusion has not been forgotten. At the recent dedication service, several relatives left when a photographer arrived.

ITN said yesterday that it

had no plans to send a team to Hungerford. "The people of Hungerford are not marking it so the feeling is that we

should not," said a spokeswoman. The BBC is screening a documentary about the massacre tomorrow evening.

A BBC spokeswoman said: "We are likely to attend the press conference but, out of respect to the wishes of families, we won't be doing anything else."

To meet the demands of the

media, a press conference will

be held in the town on

Tuesday morning at which

Mr Tarry, Mr Cable and the police will make a statement. The hope is that relatives of the dead and injured will not be bothered.

Liz Breton, whose husband Roger, a police officer, was among Ryan's victims, said: "I will not be doing anything to mark the day and neither will my sons. Roger is in my thoughts but I will be trying to get through the day as if it is any other. There will

be no big fuss and any thought I have will be in private."

Fiona Pask, who knew

Ryan and walked from her house ten years ago to see bodies in the street, remembers the crowds who flocked to Hungerford afterwards.

"It was awful. You never forget something like that but you try to push it to the back of your mind. I certainly won't be marking the tenth

anniversary in any particular way. I might have a quiet five minutes to myself, or the day might pass without me realising it. I just don't know."

There are dissenters. Kay Wainwright, whose father was killed and mother wounded, said: "Life goes on, but the tragedy should be marked in a way agreed by the relatives. Hungerford just wants to be seen as a pretty market town. I think some

people are ashamed of what happened but they can't turn back the clock by refusing to admit it happened."

Mr Cable denies that is the

aim and is anxious to avoid any perceived divisions among the population of 5,000. "It was a community decision. The tragedy is part of our history, something we can't hide from. But there is more to Hungerford than Michael Ryan."



Michael Ryan: shot dead 16 people

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# Turtle survival at loggerheads with lager louts on Greek beach

Bright lights and rowdy British tourists are threatening nesting sites, report James Pettifer and John Carr

AN INVASION of rowdy British tourists is threatening to destroy one of the last refuges of the rare loggerhead turtle.

Stretches of beach on the Greek island of Zakynthos, where the endangered species has one of its rare nesting grounds, have become the playgrounds of more than 300,000 package holidaymakers, most of them from Britain.

Piles of beer bottles, plastic chairs and other detritus from the bars, discos and tavernas now choke the shores where the turtles have congregated for thousands of years to lay their eggs. The soft eggs, buried beneath the sand, are frequently pierced by beach umbrellas, and speedboat propellers kill the pregnant mothers.

Volunteers described the spectacle of a heavily pregnant turtle trying to fight its way through beach chairs and other debris at night to lay her eggs. Many others, terrified by the noise from the beaches,

lay their eggs in the water, where they cannot hatch.

The eggs that survive face another hazard: for thousands of years the hatchlings were guided to the sea by moonlight; now bar and hotel lights mislead them. Instead of crawling towards the sea, they head for the lights and perish in the sand.

Greece is host to the last concentration of loggerhead nesting sites in the Mediterranean. Laganas, in south Zakynthos, with its five kilometres of wide, sandy beaches, is the most important Greek and international conservationists are calling for the establishment of a marine park to save Laganas colony, where the number of nests has fallen from an average of 300 a year to about 500.

Lily Venizelos, president of the Mediterranean Association to Save Sea Turtles, said yesterday: "Tourism has become uncontrollable. The problem is the sheer numbers. Many of the British holiday-

makers drink a lot and, when there is a full moon, they go down to the beaches to swim and make a lot of noise."

Local boatowners do not help the problem. They hire out boats to show the people the turtles and frighten them off. The problem could be eased if tour operators did the right job of explaining what damage is being done.

Despite laws protecting the Zakynthos habitat, which have existed since 1984, conservationists are not allowed to rope off nesting sites or put up signs. Jill Jeffries, a member of a turtle-protection task force, said: "People are willing to co-operate, but they don't have enough information."

Corruption is a big problem and many protection laws appear to be flouted with impunity. An Athens lawyer, who was born on Zakynthos, claims to have a thick file of evidence showing that up to £2 million in privately raised funds supposedly destined for ecological organisations found its way into the pockets of local officials and business people.

According to Mrs Venizelos, two makeshift fast-food canteens were recently given permission to set up on a beach in obvious violation of the law. Repeated protests had scant effect. "For the three weeks I was there, the canteens switched off their lights late at night," she said, "but I have no doubt they switched them on again when I left. Nobody of any influence on the island cares."

Thomson Holidays denied



Loggerhead turtles have nested at Laganas, now a tourist resort, for centuries

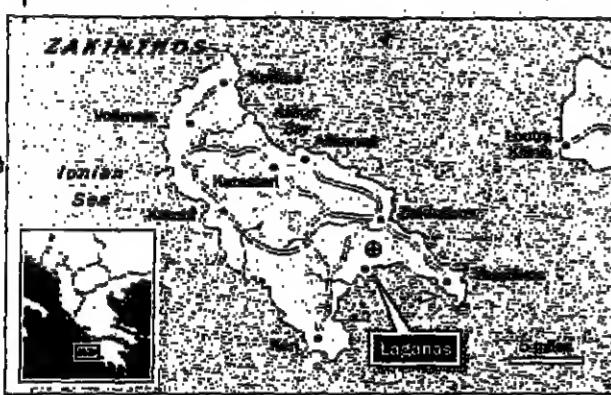
## Cars kill millions of birds on roads

TEN MILLION birds are killed on the roads each year and the annual death toll is rising, the British Trust for Ornithology said.

Owls are particularly vulnerable, as they cannot escape cars being driven at speed. A Trust spokesman said: "Cars travelling at 50 mph are going faster than birds' natural predators. Drivers should slow down and flash their lights at birds in the road."

About 50,000 badgers are killed on the roads, according to statistics from the Institute of Advanced Motorists. Other creatures frequently killed or injured by vehicles include hedgehogs, rabbits, hares, foxes and deer.

Drivers must check whether it is safe to take action to avoid an animal in the road before doing so, the AA said. The risk is of swerving into oncoming traffic or braking hard and one's vehicle being hit from behind, a spokesman said.



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Free re-mortgage package available.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Teach young to avoid drugs, says Leah's father

Paul Bettis, whose teenage daughter, Leah, died after taking Ecstasy in 1995, called for compulsory lessons in primary schools on the dangers of drugs. Mr Bettis, right, of Latchingdon, Essex, who has applied to be the Government's "drugs tsar", said: "Quite a lot of primary school kids are now the offspring of today's modern drug users." His call was rejected by Paul Flynn, a Labour MP, who said that a similar idea had failed in America.



## Royal Ordnance under fire

The Royal Ordnance, manufacturer of ammunition and heavy weapons, is lobbying Parliament about the difficulty of competing with overseas bidders subsidised by governments. It says that two major new contracts are vital if hundreds of jobs are to be saved and Britain is to retain its capability to produce ammunition. The firm is lobbying the MPs of constituencies with an ordnance plant.

## Kept in the dark

Council workmen ripped out five old lampposts for replacement in Church Road, Gosforth, Newcastle, just a week after another team had repainted them. Among the road's irritated residents is Bill Dodds, vice-chairman of the city's highways committee. He said: "It was a breakdown in communication." He estimates that £270 of public money was wasted.

## Man crushed at tug-of-war

A man died when he was crushed under the wheels of a lorry being used in a tug-of-war contest. Graham Hamlet, 57, of Farset, Cambridgeshire, stumbled as a pub team competed against the lorry. Police said: "The articulated lorry tractor unit was being pulled with a rope when a man was somehow run over by the wheels." Environmental health officials have begun an investigation.

## Land-speed record attempt

Colin Fallows, 47, an engineer from Hartwell, Northamptonshire, hopes to break the British land-speed record tomorrow on a runway at Elvington, North Yorkshire. The 259mph record was set by Richard Noble in 1980. Mr Fallows set an unofficial record last year when he averaged 266mph in a Vampire dragster powered by a jet engine from a Red Arrows Gnats trainer aeroplane.

## Golfer's full-toss feat

A golfer hit his first hole-in-one with a shot that went in full-toss. The golf magazine *Fore!* said such shots comprised only 1 per cent of all holes-in-one. Martin Watson, 45, hit the shot on a 170-yard par three at the Pike Fold club in Manchester. **USPGA, page 25**

# Warlord plots Taliban's downfall

THE Afghan guerrilla chief, Ahmed Shah Masood, who has orchestrated the anti-Taliban alliance, first went into battle against the Russian Army when he was 26 years old.

As the first Soviet tanks rumbled down the Salang Highway into Kabul on Boxing Day 1979, General Masood slipped into the hills of his native Panjshir Valley to launch a jihad against the infidel invader.

Backed by a growing band of Mujahidin fighters, General Masood fought off five Soviet campaigns to break him. All failed. Moscow threw 115,000 men against him without a hope of success. Rusting hulks of Soviet tanks are still dotted all over the Panjshir — a lasting reminder of Moscow's folly.

The son of an Afghan Army officer, General Masood studied engineering at Kabul University where he met many of the characters who were to become key figures in Afghanistan's tragedy.

There he was also exposed to the competing ideologies of Islamic nationalism and Soviet communism that would launch the country's darkest age of bloodshed and waste.

A deeply religious man,



General Masood, who halted Russia, is now thwarting the mullahs. Michael Dynes reports from the Panjshir Valley

married with five children, General Masood is revered by his fighters as a sort of Robin Hood of the Hindu Kush. He sleeps little. When he is not touring the front or cajoling his commanders, he reads.

Military strategists, particularly Napoleon, de Gaulle and Giap, are his favourites. Now the nemesis of the Soviet Union has turned his wrath against the mullahs from the south.

Afghanistan has never witnessed anything quite like Taliban. Literally, the name means students, whose traditional role was to study and bring the word of Muhammad to the people. Taliban had been a feature of Afghan society for centuries.

But the new school of Taliban, founded by Mullah Muhammed Omar, the movement's reclusive one-eyed leader in Kandahar, is something quite different. His ultra-conservative version of

they are the sole guardians of that truth.

Such unshakeable conviction has turned them into fanatical fighters. But like British and Russians before them, the Pakistani-backed Taliban found that they had bitten off more than they could chew in their attempts to conquer the country.

After initial successes they have been beaten back with heavy losses and are now facing dissent within their own ranks.

In an interview with *The Times* at his home in the Panjshir Valley, General Masood said: "We have deliberately engaged the enemy on several fronts to weaken him. In my opinion, the Taliban are now in a defensive position."

General Masood said that he could have stormed the gates of Kabul on several occasions during the past ten months. But he did not want to take the capital until he had built a nationwide consensus behind him. That process is almost complete and it is now time to bring the fighting into the heartland of the Taliban stronghold, he said. His forces, it is claimed, have four times the firepower now than when they were pushed out of Kabul last September.



General Masood, the anti-Taliban leader, talks with his commanders at a command post 40 miles from Kabul.

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## Sword of the mullahs loses faith in itself

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN KALAKAN

TALEBAN armour and artillery pounded the frontline positions of Ahmed Shah Masood around the mud-walled village of Kalakan over the weekend, but failed to dent the defences held by the anti-Taliban alliance for the past four weeks.

A relentless barrage of shells and mortars fell out of the sky around the battered mud-brick fortress held by Commander Bismillah Khan, whose fighters took refuge in trenches, wells and mud huts, emerging several hours later, shaken but without casualties.

Three of the Northern Alliance's vintage MiG 21 bombers strafed Taliban positions in the village of Husseini Kot and the Shakar Dara Heights, some 12 miles north of Kabul, leaving a trail of smoking plumes running across the horizon.

General Masood's Tajik fighters returned the barrage yesterday, concentrating their fire on Taliban tank and infantry positions across the Shakar Dara Heights, which could be heard reverberating all over the Shomali Valley from Kabul to the Hindu Kush.

Morale among General Masood's commanders and fighters along the Old Road into Kabul appears to be buoyant. Tanks, multiple-barrelled rocket launchers and artillery pieces are being repaired, fine-tuned and positioned for what is widely thought to be an imminent assault on the gates of the capital, Kabul.

Seven attempts by the Taliban to break through the Northern Alliance's front lines over the past ten days, including a ferocious battle last week when villagers said it had been "raining rockets", have failed.

During an interview just behind the anti-Taliban alliance's front line, near the village of Kalakan, Commander Bismillah Khan said that the Taliban had thrown just about everything they had at the Northern Alliance and had still failed to get through.

"Before, the Taliban were good fighters," he said. "But they have disintegrated as a fighting force." He added:

"They no longer believe in what they are fighting for."

The high morale of the anti-Taliban alliance contrasts with the mood in Kabul, which is growing more tense by the day, according to reports which have reached here from the city by satellite phone.

Random round-ups of the civilian population by the Taliban authorities have increased. Taliban soldiers are becoming increasingly jittery, and the population is impatient for General Masood to make his move.

One Western military expert said that 30 tanks, backed by mechanised infantry and co-ordinated air assaults, would be able to punch their way through the two Taliban-controlled mountain passes which lead to Kabul in a matter of hours.

While General Masood has the tanks, he lacks the mechanised infantry, rendering his fighters vulnerable to intense Taliban shelling. Besides, he appears to be in no rush to take Kabul, preferring to bleed the Taliban forces before making his move.

A succession of bruising military defeats at Mazar-i-Sharif, Salang and the Shomali Valley has punctured Taliban's myth of military invincibility, and convinced General Masood, who has been made Defence Minister in a new anti-Taliban government, that Kabul is now within his grasp.

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"Before, the Taliban were good fighters," he said. "But they have disintegrated as a fighting force." He added:



## Burma jails three Suu Kyi relatives

Rangoon: Three Burmese democracy supporters related to the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, were each jailed for ten years, the Burmese Government said yesterday.

Daw Suu Kyi's cousin and close aide, Cho Aung Than, his sister, Nge Ma Ma Than, and her husband, Myint Swe, had been found guilty and sentenced under national security laws in the Insein court in Rangoon.

"Cho Aung Than, Myint Swe and Nge Ma Ma Than have been sentenced to three years' imprisonment, for breaching the Unlawful Association Act and a further seven years under the Emergency Provisions Act," a government statement said.

The three were detained in June and questioned in relation to smuggling videotapes of Daw Suu Kyi's speeches abroad. They have also been accused of being conduits for foreign funds the Government said were received by Daw Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party earlier this year, officials said.

The military regime, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), said in June that Daw Suu Kyi's party had received \$82,200 (£50,000) from two Americans working for United States agencies.

In an interview last month, Daw Suu Kyi strongly denied receiving the money. (Reuters)



## Kohl's holiday message brings no sunshine in summer of gloom

There have been few holiday snaps of Helmut Kohl this summer. Normally one could expect pictures of the Chancellor and his wife posing with an animal — a deer, a horse or, if all else fails, a docile cow — at his Austrian retreat on the Wolfgangsee. During the holiday, such is the pattern set by almost 15 years in power, the Chancellor gives a television interview which is supposed to reassure the few Germans still at home, too poor or too busy to take their towels to the Mediterranean beaches. The interview is treated with the same kind of reverence accorded to the Queen's Christ-

### INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

mas Day message; it is supposed to keep everybody on an even keel.

This year is different and the reason is plain: the Chan-

cellor is weaker, the Germans more critical of his performance, rivals hungrier than before. The mood has not been lifted by the sunshine. On the contrary, it has merely reminded the Germans that the enfeebled mark has made the usual stamping grounds, even much-loved Florida, unreasonably expensive. More Germans are sunbathing at home this summer than in any year since unification.

Herr Kohl, of course, is not blamed personally. But he is part of the mood of decline which has staggered into the holiday period. The latest opinion polls indicate that the Christian Democrats can

must only 36 per cent of the vote, compared with 41 per cent for the opposition Social Democrats. Herr Kohl's partners, the Free Democrats, are on 5 per cent; even a slight dip would banish them from parliament. The Greens, the likely partner of the Social Democrats, are recording a high, stable vote of 10 per cent. A Red-Green alliance in other words, could thrash the Chancellor if elections were held this week.

It is not mid-term blues. The figures have been broadly the same for a year. That is why the summer gossip about a Cabinet re-

shuffle is being taken so seriously. The Post Minister, a member of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), will see his department abolished at the end of the year; privatisation has made the ministry irrelevant.

The CSU, and in particular Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, have been using the holiday to call for an autumn reshuffle to take into account this natural wastage. The CSU needs to be compensated. But how? By making Herr Waigel the Foreign Minister at the expense of the incumbent Free Democrat, Klaus Kinkel? By merging the Finance and Economic Minis-

tries under Herr Waigel (also costing the Free Democrats a Cabinet seat)? By making a CSU-controlled super-ministry out of Health and Social affairs (the losers would be the Chancellor's closest ally, Norbert Blüm)?

If the Chancellor obliges, he will be seen to be hostage to the Bavarians. If he refuses or delays, he will come over again as indecisive. The only way he can emerge a winner is if he announces a shrunken Cabinet, disposing of several ministries with creative mergers. All the signs are that the German leader no longer has the energy for such a radical step. So, this year, the sum-

mer rumours filling the news vacuum are more destructive than usual.

Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's Prime Minister, is calling almost weekly for a controlled two-year delay in the introduction of the euro. Herr Waigel is banging the drum for a big European budget rebate.

Christian Wulff, the Lower Saxony Christian Democrat, an outspoken critic of the Chancellor's ruling style, is touring Germany, making ambiguous remarks about the Government. All this erodes the Chancellor's authority. Party discipline is

crumbling. That is why the Chancellor's lakeside interview has fallen flat this summer. He pleaded with the Opposition to negotiate a modest set of tax cuts — this from a man who once had his own tax plan as the reform of the century. "If we can't do everything at once, then let us do at least a part so that the country can see a future for itself."

To those of us holidaying in our German gardens, that smacked of weakness. As a reformer, he has failed. Herr Kohl can fight the election only on his credentials as a European, and since Amsterdam those laurels look thin.

## Far Right stays step ahead of the law by Internet

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND CHRIS FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

GERMAN neo-Nazi sympathisers, strutting in make-shift brown uniforms and barking out racist slogans, tried yesterday to dodge police flying squads to demonstrate their allegiance to Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy.

Sunday's protests — in defiance of a Constitutional Court ruling — capped a weekend of sometimes violent demonstrations in Denmark and Germany which displayed the ability of right-wing extremists to use mobile telephones and the Internet to evade strict laws against glorifying Hitler and the Nazi movement.

The German authorities are planning to tighten their already tough rules by enforcing members of outlawed groups to register at local police stations twice a day.

The occasion for the weekend protest was the tenth anniversary of the suicide of Hess while serving a life sentence in Allied imprisonment in Berlin. The far Right

claims he was murdered, and so he has become a martyr for the movement.

The most successful weekend rally for the neo-Nazis was in Denmark, which has more liberal laws than Germany on far-right demonstrations.

Shouting "Sieg Heil" and waving swastika flags, they switched their rally at the last moment to the town of Koge, south of Copenhagen, to avoid a battle with anti-Nazi protesters who fought with police at the original site in the nearby cathedral city of Roskilde. Many of the neo-Nazis wore masks and carried wooden shields with portraits of Hess, chanting: "Rudolf Hess — fighter for peace."

Among those who marched was Stewart Mordan, a British-born member of the far-right Dutch Centre Party, who made a furious attack on black people. They "will try to destroy you — your best salvation is to join our strug-



Nazi supporters from Germany march through Koge in Denmark to mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Rudolf Hess, Hitler's deputy

gle", he said. German neo-Nazis trying to make their way to Denmark were detained by police, as were skinheads trying to attend rallies in Brunswick, Halle and some towns in the state of Hesse.

Over the weekend at least 380 people were detained,

though most were expected to be released today.

The clashes were predictable. They occur on the Hess anniversary and German courts invariably uphold the police right to outlaw the demonstrations. Under German law it is forbidden to stir

up racial hatred, to make the Hitler salute, wear a swastika or deny publicly the existence of the Holocaust. But a border-free Europe makes it easier for extremists to slip out of the grasp of the German police. Before heading out for the weekend protest, organi-

isers told neo-Nazis to have full tanks of petrol and charged-up mobile telephones and to be ready to change the site of their protest at a moment's notice. The tips came over special telephone information lines and on the Internet.

In terms of numbers, the result was a poor one. Neo-Nazis had expected some 2,000 sympathisers to be on the move, instead the Danish demonstrators numbered about 150 and the total number of protesters in Germany probably came to about 300.

## Serbs threaten to defend Karadzic from Nato swoop

FROM TOM WALKER IN PALE

HARDLINE Serbs have promised to shoot down any Nato helicopters involved in a smash operation to take Radovan Karadzic. They seem to have seriously underestimated the support for the former leader and psychiatrist they revere as the father of the Bosnian Serb nation.

By pushing Republika Srpska's constitutional court to veto the attempt by Biljana Plavšić, the president, to dissolve parliament and stage fresh elections, Dr Karadzic seems to be approaching his last stand. For the West only his removal can free the Bosnian Serbs from political paralysis and economic catastrophe. In the way of the specialised Nato troops, now thought to be ready for an arrest operation, stands the population and the intimidating terrain of Pale, the former ski resort 2,000ft above Sarajevo, where loyalty to Dr Karadzic is fierce.

In 1995, during the Nato bombing raids which brought the Bosnian conflict to a halt, a French military jet was shot down over Pale and its inhabitants claim they are ready for action again. "Every person and child will defend him," said a government official claiming to be a good friend of Dr Karadzic.

Over brandy and thick slabs of barbecued pig, his entourage guffawed at the prospect of an airborne mission to capture The Hague's most wanted war crimes suspect. "We shot down a French Mirage, what's a few helicopters?" they said. "Hundreds will die, thousands."

Pale's attempt to be a seat of government may be risible, but officers with Nato's Stabilisation Force (Stof) troops in Bosnia admit its hilly, heavily forested terrain

## Mir hit by more docking setbacks

FROM RICHARD BEERON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S ailing Mir space station suffered a fresh setback yesterday when a computer malfunction caused the last-minute cancellation of a docking operation and cast doubts on a repair mission scheduled for this week.

In what has become a depressingly familiar pattern, mission control in Moscow said plans to dock a Progress supply vessel with Mir had been postponed until today after the ship failed to respond to commands.

The blades of American Black Hawk helicopters can withstand 43mm cannon fire, and the British source said the Americans may have a new generation of super-quiet helicopters at the ready.

However, his remarks mask

concerns that the docking could be a serious problem. It is a repeat of a manoeuvre carried out on June 25 when the Progress vessel crashed into one of the station's modules, forcing the crew to abandon the punctured Spektr module and leaving the station with half its electrical power.

The two-man Russian relief crew, which arrived on Mir earlier this month, and the British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale, are supposed to begin the dangerous repair work on Spektr on Wednesday, although that operation will now be delayed.

The reality is rather more grabby. So desperate was Dr Karadzic that the constitutional court should rule against Mrs Plavšić's move to dissolve parliament that he had one of the more moderate judges beaten up. Judge Jovo Rović was yesterday released from hospital and said that he would hold a press conference today.

## Casanova loses his sexiness

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

GIACOMO CASANOVA, the 18th-century Venetian adventurer and Don Juan, was not the arch-seducer of legend but a scholar, diplomat and religious thinker whose reputation as a lover rests largely on his own heavily embroidered and partly fictitious account, according to new Italian studies.

Next year marks the bicentenary of Casanova's death and the revisionists are already setting out to dismantle the myth, much of which stems from Casanova's own unreliable memoirs, *My Life and Adventures*.

The more sober side of the great lady killer is presented in a play based on Casanova's own writings to be staged next month in Vicenza, and in two forthcoming books: *A Night with Don Giovanni*, by Luciano Piazzani, a re-evaluation of Casanova's contribution to the libretto for Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and a collection of love letters between Casanova and two of his amours, the actress Manon Ballietti and the intellectual Elisa von der Recke.

Some of the new material is based on papers and fragments found at the castle of Dux, near Teplice in Germany, where Casanova spent the last 14 years of his life as librarian to his patron, Count Waldstein.

Born in 1725, Casanova had attended a seminary in his youth, but was expelled for "scandalous conduct". He was always on the move, living in Rome, Paris (where he invented the national lottery), Dresden, Prague, Vienna, London, St Petersburg and his beloved Venice, where his reputation as an occult magician landed him in the dreaded dungeons beneath the Doge's palace. He escaped, spectacularly in 1756, only returning to La Serenissima about 20 years later to offer his services to the state inquisitors as a spy.

The emerging view is that, although his memoirs focus on his amours ("My sanguine temperament rendered me sensible to the attractions of voluptuousness"), Casanova was really a thinker and would-be statesman. His prolific writings include not only his autobiography and his famous account of his escape from prison, but also a quantity of verse, a work of philosophy and a translation of *The Iliad* into Venetian. "It is true he was always in and out of women's bedrooms," said *Cavaliere della Seru*. "But his real vocation was as a politician and philosopher."

At the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, where Casanova is being staged, Maurizio Scaparro, the playwright, said he saw Casanova as a disillusioned man. "His endless role-playing and travelling wore him out," Signor Scaparro said. "The practical business of sex did not really satisfy him at all, nor was it the central fact of his life."



Zienia Merton and Frank Finlay in the 1971 BBC series, *Casanova*.

## More aid offered to flee Montserrat

THE volcanic island of Montserrat is one step closer to total abandonment after it was announced at the weekend that Britain is to help more residents leave the Caribbean dependency (David Adams writes). The latest move comes as scientists said that the risk of violent eruptions is greater than previously thought.

Montserrat's Chief Minister, Bertrand Osborne, said residents are being offered a voluntary exit package, including money and transportation to the neighbouring island of Antigua. Residents of several villages previously considered safe have been told to move to refugee shelters.

### Denktaş in boycott threat

AIKARAS: The Turkish Cypriot leadership yesterday threatened to boycott further negotiations on the future of the divided Mediterranean island if the European Union starts accession talks with the Greek Cypriot Government. Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, said: "Our future decision on the Cyprus negotiating process will depend on the attitude the EU adopts at the end of 1997." Five days of UN-sponsored talks in Switzerland ended last week with both sides saying no progress had been made. (AP)

### Islam music legend dies

LAHORE: Hundreds had farewells yesterday to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, one of South Asia's greatest singers, who brought the devotional music of Islam to the West and who died aged 49 of a heart attack at a London hospital on Saturday. Khan was Pakistan's most popular musician with a career spanning three decades. His body was taken to Lahore before being flown by helicopter for burial at Faisalabad. (AP)

### Beach landslide kills child

SOFIA: A craggy cliff over a Black Sea beach gave way yesterday, sending earth and rocks crashing down on a beach and killing a boy aged two. The secluded beach near the town of Balchik, about 32 miles northeast of Sofia, is best reached by sea. The boy's parents, who were covered waist-deep in earth, survived. (AP)

### Six die in Kenya attacks

ROADSIDE kiosks and dozens of houses in the Kenyan port of Mombasa were set ablaze by unknown attackers linked to the killing hours earlier of five people in a village north of the city (Inigo Gilmore writes). In another village, a sixth person was shot dead by the police. The attacks are believed to be related to increasing political tensions in the country.

### Peru rebels hold workers

At least 50 of Peru's ruthless Shining Path guerrillas are reported to have kidnapped 29 petroleum company workers, including an undetermined number of foreigners from a seismic survey post, set up in a remote central rainforest area along the River Ene (Gabriella Gamini writes).

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## UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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## EASY RIDER

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Mick Doohan is  
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PAGE 24

## HARSH REALITY

Life in football's basement  
PAGE 31OVER  
AND OUT?Is Nick Faldo  
facing  
Ryder Cup  
exclusion?  
PAGE 25

## TIMES SPORT

MONDAY 18 AUGUST 1997



William Funnell almost comes to grief on Gordon Good Time while trying to negotiate the Derby Bank at the British Jumping Derby at Hickstead yesterday. Horse and rider escaped uninjured. Photograph: Julian Herbert/Allsport. Report: Page 25

LYNNE TRUSS AT HICKSTEAD: PAGE 29

Ramprakash  
recalled to  
England fold

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

MARK RAMPRakash, the great enigma of English cricket, is back where appearances insist he belongs, but statistics beg to differ. The most elegant batsman of his generation has been recalled, at the expense of John Crawley, for the sixth Test against Australia, starting at the Oval on Thursday.

The majority of cricket-watchers, rightly supportive of Ramprakash's clear potential and charisma, will acclaim his inclusion, though it is unarguably made on a whim and a prayer. Crawley, who passed 1,000 Test runs last week in his twelfth consecutive match, has an England average almost twice as high as that of the man who replaces him.

Crawley, however, has mustered only 26 runs in the first innings of five Tests this season and is the casualty of the selectors' justifiable determination to curtail their team's habit of losing games before they reach the midway point.

If Ramprakash is the beneficiary of this move, he is also being asked to prove a lot in a very short time. A place on the tour of West Indies — against whom he has played nine of his 19 Tests — is the immediate prize that may be dependent on his response to pressure this week. His first reaction to the news was to make nought for Middlesex at Lord's yesterday.

Ramprakash's Test career was launched amid high expectations, as long ago as 1991, when he was 21. He played all six Tests against West Indies that summer, but, in the intervening six years, has added only 13 more caps and achieved a dismal England average of 16.05. Strictly on this evidence, his fresh chance is a rare and fortunate privilege.

As David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, explained yesterday, however, it became impossible to ignore

Middlesex's surrender — 26  
Stewart keeps dual role — 27  
One-day blunders — 28

Ramprakash both because of his volume of county runs and the oft-stated admiration of his fellow players. "Whatever dressing-room I go into, his is the name that people mention to me," Graveney said.

The counter-argument to this, of course, is that we always knew he could bat at county level, just as we knew that he possessed all the technical qualifications one could desire. What, to date, he has painfully failed to demonstrate is the means to conquer his vertigo at the heady levels of cricket.

Batting at No 6 throughout the 1991 series, he made a succession of twenty-some things and occupied the crease for a remarkable length of time. It was generally assumed that he would flourish once the heat of opposition was eased, but it never happened.

Ramprakash has made four full England tours, but played a total of only seven overseas Tests, four of them in the West Indies four winters ago. More than once, when on tour, he has become a detached and insular figure, prone to the bouts of temper and self-recrimination that, in his youth, earned him the nickname "Bloodaxe".

achieve eminence in the dressing-room. Ramprakash has his work cut out proving his credentials as a player.

The memory of his last Test lingers disturbingly. Late in 1995, and he made four and nought. When, in the second innings, Brian McMillan yorked him second ball, it seemed England were heading for heavy defeat. Instead, that Test was saved by Atherton's monumental 185 not out.

A single Test at the end of a losing series would doubtless not be his preferred route back, but, for the moment, Ramprakash will take whatever comes in his mission to prove that his nerve really can hold firm under stress.

	Tests	Inns	No	Runs	Not	Ave	100s	50s
Mark	19	38	1	533	72	18.85	0	2
Ramprakash	19	38	1	533	72	18.85	0	2
John Crawley	26	38	4	4,088	212	33.18	2	7

CRAWLEY IN TESTS AGAINST AUSTRALIA THIS SUMMER

	1st Inn	2nd Inn	Total	Average
First Test	1	—	1	1
Second Test	1	28no	30	30
Third Test	4	83	87	43.5
Fourth Test	2	72	74	37
Fifth Test	18	20	81	25.6
TOTAL	26	237	263	30.4

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MOTORCYCLING: AUSTRALIAN WINS BRITISH GRAND PRIX TO CLINCH FOURTH SUCCESSIVE 500cc WORLD TITLE

# Doohan, an easy rider way out in front

JULIAN MUSCAT



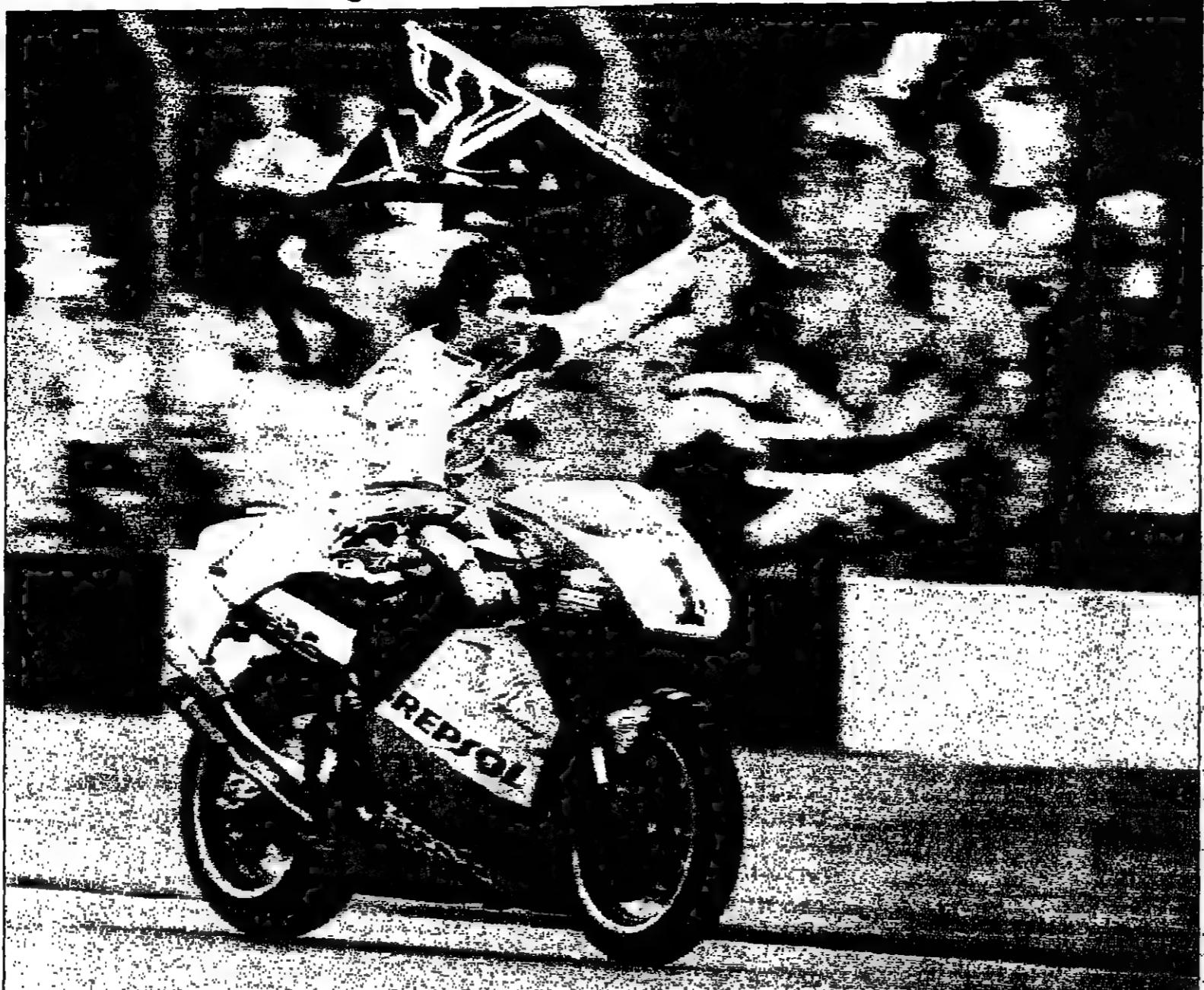
At Donington Park

THE British Grand Prix was into its closing laps, with Tadayuki Okada threatening to upset the coronation. Winning was mathematically academic to Michael Doohan, whose hold on a fourth consecutive 500cc motorcycle world championship was all but secure. Then, seven laps from the finish, Doohan swept inside his Japanese team-mate to assume the lead, in the process triggering celebrations among 30,000 gathered at Donington Park to witness another benchmark in the Australian's remarkable career.

Victory amply demonstrated why Doohan inhabits an altitude that leaves others struggling to breathe. A mid-race spurt, showcased by a lap record, seemed to deflate Okada before he rallied to take the lead on lap 20. However, when Doohan regained the initiative, you could have staked your house on him retaining it. As he later testified: "The only way I wanted to win the championship was by winning this race. I didn't particularly enjoy winning last year's championship by finishing second in Catalonia. This is the way to do it."

The detail was important to Doohan. Never mind that he has wrapped up the championship with four races remaining; never mind that he has won ten of 11 grands prix this season, his only blemish coming in Spain, where he ran second; and never mind that he joins Mike Hailwood and Giacomo Agostini, the only men to annex four successive world championships. Doohan, like so many of his compatriots, is nothing but a hard-nosed winner.

Anyone doubting his impact should have been trackside on Thursday. All riders are besieged by autograph hunters, but it is Doohan's they really want. His drawing of a pen in the pitlane proved the signal for others to come



Flying the Australian flag, Doohan celebrates his fourth world title after winning the British Grand Prix. Photograph: Marc Aspland

forward, attracted like iron filings to a magnet. Doohan obliged for a few minutes, retreated to the sanctuary of the pit and promptly drew the shutters — otherwise he would have been there all night.

That moment was indicative of the man. Doohan, 32, is happy to talk about his career,

the Repsol Honda team, his experience in ten years of grand prix racing. Stray beyond the work ethic and his expression tells you he is about to respond with a series of bland statements — which he duly delivers. Often alone at the head of the field, he is equally detached in relationships with team members.

"I am under no illusions," he said. "In the paddock, it is nothing but a business. I have no friends in there; I am there to ride a motorcycle. There are a lot of people I get along with, but that's as far as it goes." By

way of endorsing the point, Doohan dedicated this championship to the hard work of his team, before immediately jetting back to Monaco to celebrate in the Principality he has made his home.

The motorcycle circuit is a global travelling circus. The key difference is that, unlike trapeze artists, riders are asked to perform without a safety net. Doohan would testify to that: a spill in practice five years ago nearly cost him his right leg.

## Waldmann closes gap on rival

RALF WALDMANN, of Germany, moved to within six points of Tetsuya Harada, of Japan, in the world championship standings by just edging out his rival in an exciting finish to the 250cc event at Donington. Waldmann, on a Honda, went one better than last year and recorded his second victory of the season after his win in Spain.

The 125cc event was won by Valentino Rossi, of Italy, on an Aprilia after Tomomi Manako, his closest challenger, skidded off the track at the final corner. Manako gambled on cutting inside Rossi, but fell, although he remounted his Aprilia to cross the line in eighth place. Darren Barton, of Lancashire, was the leading British finisher, in fourteenth place.

### CYCLING

## Italians savour clean sweep

BY PETER BRYAN

ITALIAN riders enjoyed themselves in the Rochester International Classic yesterday when Andrea Tafi led a clean sweep of the top three places. However, although the event was Great Britain's contribution to the ten-race World Cup series, there was precious little for the host country to cheer about.

Chris Boardman crashed while Max Sciandri, despite putting in a late but spirited attack, had to content himself with sixth place. Boardman suffered his fall 44 kilometres from the finish as the tightly-bunched main group upped the pace, with seven riders going clear. Boardman was helped up, but the agony was plain to see as he tried to remount. When he finally got going again, he was minutes down on the whole field and reached Rochester among the tail-enders.

The chase had taken its toll

on him, however, and Ferragato, who beat Sciandri in 1996, edged into second place, from the end, as he set his sights on the five riders ahead of him on the eight-kilometre finishing circuit — Tafi, Giancola Bortolami, Andrea Veneroni and Stefano Heulot.

He had to start his pursuit by

breaking clear from the main pack, but it was a long, hard chase and, when Sciandri's quarry finally came into view, he realised that Tafi had already made his move and was well on his way to victory. Sciandri persisted and finally made contact on the run-in to the finish.

The chase had taken its toll

## Price fights back to keep title

BY DAVID RYHS JONES

MARY PRICE won the English women's singles championship for the third time at Royal Leamington Spa on Saturday and equalled a long-standing record held by Nancie Colling and Mayvis Steele, who are now senior officers of the English Women's Bowling Association.

Price, from Buckinghamshire, playing in her fifth final, dropped a full house of four to trail Jean Baker, of Derbyshire, 7-4, but fought back to take the lead for the first time at 19-18 on the 24th end, only to fall behind again, when Baker scored a double on the 25th.

A Price single on the 26th tied the scores at 20-20 and another on the 27th broke the deadlock, installing Price as only the second player to retain the title.

Bowlers, from the Vine Hotel, in Skegness, won the

triples title with a 29-3 final victory over a strong team from the City & County of Oxford club, skippered by Sue Lacey, who won the indoor fours championship last year.

Margaret Nester, Margaret Walters and Dorothy Briars had beaten the holders, Audrey Mainwaring, Greta Molineux, and Irene Dykes, who also play for the City & County of Oxford, in the semi-finals.

Yesterday, at Worthing, Neil Trundler, from Victory Park, in Stroud, won the national under-25 singles championship, beating Clive James, of Canterbury, 21-6, in the final.

Arthur Jackson, 43, from Broadway, in Worcestershire, beat Roger Dykes, of Roker Marine, 21-20 in the final of the Champion of Champions' event.

Dykes beat Gerry Smyth, of Shepherds Bush Cricket Club, 21-20 in the semi-final but lost an early lead against Jackson, son of Reg Jackson, a former Welsh international, in the final.

Desborough Town defeated Liberty, of Havering, 32-31, in the final of the national inter-club two fours championship on Saturday.

At Dinas Powys, who won the Welsh club championship in 1985 and 1986, regained the title and lifted the Carruthers Shield for the third time at Llandrindod Wells, when they beat Gelli Park, 90-68, in the final. Gelli Park included Maldwyn Evans, the 1972 world outdoor singles champion, who skippered his rink to wins in the semi-final and final, but Nigel Leigh and Jeff Wobley returned vital winning cards for Dinas Powys.

## Ainslie loses crown after getting lost

BEN AINSLIE'S attempt to retain his European title in the Laser sailing class against a 130-strong fleet at Cascais in Portugal came to a disappointing end on Saturday when he went the wrong way in the last race and threw away a championship-winning position (Edward Gorman writes). However, while Ainslie, the Olympic silver medal-winner, finished third overall behind Stefan Warkalla, of Germany, in second place, there was plenty to celebrate from a British point of view because the winner was Hugh Styles, from Sandwich, in Kent, who sailed a more consistent eight-race series than his more illustrious competitor.

Styles, 23, who was third in the European championships two years ago and second to Ainslie in the last Olympic trials, won only one race at Cascais, but was only out of the top ten once. It was a disappointing finish for Ainslie, who went into the last race in second place overall. The European youth title was won by Peter Walker, of Scotland.

## Angry Rusedski beaten

Tennis: Greg Rusedski made an angry attack on a line judge after he lost 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 to Patrick Rafter, of Australia, in the semi-final of the Pilot Pen International tournament in New Haven, Connecticut. In the twelfth game, Rusedski was foot-faulted three times, threw the ball at the line judge — for which he received a code-of-conduct warning — and double-faulted twice. "To get called for three foot faults in one game is almost impossible," Rusedski said, "but as a professional I should have handled it better." In the final, Rafter was to play Yevgeny Kafelnikov after his victory over Petr Korda in the other semi-final.

Monica Seles recovered from a shaky start to defeat Conchita Martinez, 6-2, 7-5, in the semi-final of the du Maurier Open tournament in Toronto.

## South Africa qualify

Football: Phil Masinga, the former Leeds United forward, scored the goal that secured qualification for the World Cup finals for the first time for South Africa. Masinga, who now plays for Bari, in Italy, scored after 14 minutes against Congo in Johannesburg. "It was a wonderful feeling to strike the ball and see it sail into the roof of the net," he said. "It was the greatest thrill of my life." The team is captained by Lucas Radebe, the Leeds defender.

## Record prize on offer

Snooker: The winner of the Embassy world championship next year will collect a cheque for £220,000, the largest prize in the history of the game. The total prize fund of £1,323 million will also set a record. Ronnie O'Sullivan, who will no doubt be among the favourites at the Crucible, captured the first title of the 1997-98 campaign by beating Jimmy White 5-3 in the final of the Riley's Super Star International to Guangzhou, China, yesterday. It was the tenth tournament win of O'Sullivan's five-year professional career.

## De Bruin apologises

Swimming: Erik de Bruin, the coach and husband of Michelle Smith, the triple Olympic champion, has been allowed entry to the European championships in Seville after apologising for assuming a false identity when he came to Spain to "doping" competition, the 1995 championships, in Vienna. Hans Beyer, secretary of the European Swimming League, said yesterday: "Everything has been settled. The suspicions we had of how he got accredited were confirmed. There was a kind of apology."

## Britons bow out

Snooker: Mark Carris and Sue Wright, the British champions, have both slipped out at the semi-final stage of the World Games in Lahti, Finland. Carris, 30, the world No 13, from Oxfordshire, who won the event's No 2 seed, lost 9-1, 9-3, 9-4 to Deekra Bumrung, from Thailand, who is ranked No 17. Sue Wright, the world No 22, surrendered a lead of two sets to one in losing 7-7, 6-8, 9-4, 9-6 to Sabine Schubert, of Germany, who retained three places below her.

## Six of best for Oxford

Rowing: City of Oxford's six bow crew took advantage of their local knowledge to enjoy an excellent day with six wins at the Oxford City Royal Regatta on Saturday. Their highest class success came for their top sculls, Richard Briscoe, in the Elite Sculls. There were 22 crews from 12 clubs racing in 44 events. The only foreign victory went to Leiden, Oxford's twin town in Holland, who beat their hosts in the women's senior II eights final.

## Ogle on target again

Rifle shooting: Clifford Ogle, a Northern Ireland international marksman, who works for Meritor Watt University in Scotland, won the British smallbore rifle championship at Bisley on Saturday, ten years after he first took the title. Ogle, 43, a member of the Edinburgh University Alumni RC, scored 781 out of a possible 900 with 40 shots at 50 metres and 40 at 100 yards. This gave him a four-point lead over the runner-up, John Dallimore, of Torrington RC.

## Beaufort in cup double

Polo: The Beaufort squad won The Daily Telegraph Cup for the under-21 category after a 9-8 victory against the Old Berkshire in the Pony Club final at Cowdray Park yesterday. They won in a goal-shooting contest after the match had finished 5-5. The Beaufort also won the Rendell Cup for under-19s, beating the New Forest into second place. The Rendell-Ledger was won by the Devon and Somerset with the VWH second.

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FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

THE golfing gods were beckoning their fingers at Justin Leonard, the young Texan who won the Open so convincingly last month as the last round of the US PGA Championship reached its conclusion at Winged Foot Golf Club. Step this way, do what we say and you can become the first man to win the Open and the US PGA in one year since Nick Price. In 1994, they seemed to be saying.

Since he grasped the Open so convincingly in the fourth round at Troon, he has grown in stature day by day. The composure he demonstrated in his speech at the prize-giving was just one example of his maturity.

Suddenly, he is putting all the hoopla concerning Tiger Woods into perspective. Leonard is a steadier golfer than Woods and, at 25, is only four years older. He is a legitimate member of the new generation of golfers who have dominated the major championships this year.

After a 65, a course record, on Saturday, Leonard was locked in competition with Davis Love III to determine the outcome of the last of the year's four major championships. He and Love had opened up a seven-stroke lead over Tom Kite, the US Ryder Cup captain, and Lee Janzen, the 1993 US Open champion.

After his best round of the week, a 67, Colin Mone-

gerie had something to smile about. That score enabled him to leap from near the end of the field to eleventh, nine behind the leaders and a position from which he could finish strongly.

Winged Foot presented a fearsome challenge for all, be it in the pleasantly clear conditions of the first two days, or the blistering heat of the third. "It's the most difficult course I have ever played," Paul Azinger said.

"We started with a fairly benign course out there," Kite said. "Then, every day since, it has got progressively harder. Today, suddenly it was a bear. The greens are much, much firmer. They are significantly faster. I don't know what the difference in the Stimpmeter reading from Thursday to today is, but I would say they are at least a foot and a half faster today."

It had been a good week for Thomas Bjorn, even though he complained of tiredness at the conclusion of his fourth round. "It is so tiring having to be so focused all the time," he said. Bjorn redeemed his bad third round, a 77, with a 71 yesterday. It did his morale good, enhanced his position in the Ryder Cup table and confirmed that the injured tendons in his left knee had recovered. "I had a good putting this week," Bjorn, who finished eight over par, said.

Bjorn partnered Costantino Rocca and the Italian spoiled his best efforts in the first two rounds, after which he was two under par, with rounds of 79 and 78. Rocca three-putted the 16th and 18th greens, his 70th and 72nd holes, and he was angry with himself for a long time after he had finished.

Shaun Philipson, of Prudhoe, got the most important month of his amateur career off to the best possible start yesterday when he beat Grant Thomson, of Murrayshall, to win the British mid amateur championship at Prestwick. Philipson lost a three-hole advantage over the last four holes, before eventually securing the title at the 19th when Thomson three-putted. Philipson makes his England debut in the home internationals at Burnham and Berrow in Somerset in four weeks' time.



Leonard has shown signs of increased maturity in his play at Winged Foot

#### DETAILS FROM MAMARONECK

United States Under-21s

EARLY LEADING FINAL SCORES:

284: T Colles 75, 70, 73, 85; D

Marin 69, 75, 74, 87; M Calavaccino

71, 74, 73, 87; B Babb 76, 70,

74, 75, 77; A Mancuso 74, 77, 74, 71,

74; B Egan 76, 70, 74, 70; J

76, 78, 73, 72; C Stedler 72, 74, 72,

79; L Wadlin 72, 72, 77, 70; S

Lowery 73, 69, 79, 71, 228; F Funk 71,

74, 77, 70, 235; P Jacobson 74, 72,

72, 74, 75, 73; C Franco 75, 74, 74,

75, 75; M Bradley 70, 70, 70, 70;

70, 70, 75, 75; V Kondo (Japan) 72,

73, 75, 74, 74; A Maggs 71, 70, 80,

75, 75; P Jordan 75, 75, 75, 75;

75, 75; R Gosselin 70, 70, 70, 74;

75, 75; J Cook 71, 71, 74, 74;

Garrido (Sp) 70, 71, 75; L Rinker 70, 71,

75; D Daly 69, 73, 77; J Stanekowski

73, 72, 72; P Parnevik (Swed) 70,

73, 72, 72, 73; B Brooks 70, 73, 74, 73;

Hannigan 74, 68, 75; S Jones 73, 73;

M O'Neals 69, 73, 75; T Bonn

(Den) 73, 69, 77; C Rocca 70, 69, 69,

70, 71; T Tordoff 75, 71, 73, 75;

75, 75; C Sorenson 74, 74, 74,

75, 75; D Martin 69, 75, 74; R Allard

(Aus) 71, 77; B Mayek 75, 65, 75;

75; K Sutherland 73, 75, 73; C Franco

(Peru) 69, 74, 75, 75; E Bon (Sp) 70,

74, 71; L Rorion 70, 70, 74, 70;

F Azevedo 70, 70, 70, 70; J Cunha 70,

70, 72; C Peleg 69, 71, 73; S Matsuyama

(Japan) 69, 70, 74; P Blackmer 70, 65,

74, 74; T Heron 72, 72, 77; A

Maggs (GB) 73, 72, 72, 75;

L Watson 69, 70, 70, 70; M Bradley 73,

68, 68.

COMPLETE THREE-ROUND SCORES:

284: J Leonard 69, 70, 65; D

Love 68, 71, 68, 210; T Kite 69, 71, 71;

L Janzen 69, 67, 71; S Hodge 71,

70, 71, 71; F Coughlan 71, 67, 72;

P Michelon 69, 69, 73; J Margari 68,

73, 212; F Nocita 62, 72, 67, 73;

C

Montgomery 69, 74, 71, 67; S

McLellan 69, 69, 70, 70; T Kite 69, 71,

70, 71; T Tordoff 70, 70, 70, 70;

70, 71; F Coughlan 71, 67, 72;

P Michelon 69, 69, 73; J Margari 68,

73, 212; F Nocita 62, 72, 67, 73;

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70, 71; T Tordoff 70, 70, 70, 70;

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P Michelon 69, 69, 73; J Margari 68,

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70, 71; T Tordoff 70, 70, 70, 70;

70, 71; F Coughlan 71, 67, 72;

P Michelon 69, 69, 73; J Margari 68,

73, 212; F Nocita 62, 72, 67, 73;

C

Montgomery 69, 74, 71, 67; S

CRICKET: OFF SPINNER FINISHES WITH TEN WICKETS IN MATCH-WINNING PERFORMANCE FOR SURREY

# Saqlain has Middlesex waving the white flag

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

LORD'S (third day of four): Surrey (24pts) beat Middlesex (4) by an innings and 125 runs

MIDDLESEX, who went into this match in good form and nursing high hopes, failed to take it beyond tea on the third afternoon. Bowled out in 71 overs for 201, four fewer than they made in their first innings, they were guilty of something that one rarely associates with them — surrender.

Surrey, for once approaching the summit of their considerable ability, rounded them. Saqlain Mushtaq, the Pakistani off spinner, took five wickets for the second time in the match and for the fourth successive innings. Three times in the match he was on a hat-trick and nobody played him with a confident bat. A match-winning finger spinner is rarer than rubies, but, for the time being, Surrey have one.

His first wicket yesterday was that of Mark Ramprakash, who patted back a return catch for a second-ball duck. Ramprakash had suffered two failures in this match, which means little as he prepares for the final Test against Australia. He has batted beautifully at times this



Confusion reigns as Johnson is run out at the same end as Pooley, his Middlesex team-mate, yesterday

pitch was good, the weather hot and, by the time the Holliokes got going, Surrey had already built up a formidable lead.

Resuming yesterday on 24 for one, Pooley and Johnson, the nightwatchman, pushed the score along to 67 before Johnson, not content with three runs, was run out looking for a fourth. In Saqlain's next over, Ramprakash de-

parted and the door was open. Surrey needed no bidding to walk in and help themselves.

Gatting, having trotted seven in singles, was pouched at short-leg. Pooley, having reached 72, was castled by Amin, the left-arm spinner, whose action needs amending significantly if he is to have a future at this level. He makes no use of his right, pathfinding arm at all.

Lewis returned to dismiss Shah; after that, Saqlain hogged the show. Brown and Fraser went in successive overs before Hewitt drove Amin to mid-on. Surrey looked very happy with themselves and they had every reason to feel satisfied. They played excellent cricket in this match, begging the question: why has it taken them so long?

Croft comes through stern test of character

By PAT GIBSON

WORCESTER (third day of four): Worcestershire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 267 runs ahead of Glamorgan

THESE are trying times for Robert Croft, the proud Welshman who began the summer as the life and soul of the England team but now wears the troubled frown of a cricketer under intense pressure.

His ability has been ruthlessly questioned by the Australians, his behaviour will come under equally fierce scrutiny this week when the England and Wales Cricket Board inquires into his ugly shoving match with Mark Illott, of Essex, during the NatWest Trophy semi-final, and the talk is that he will be left out of the final Test to make way for the return of Phil Tufnell.

They are missing an absorbing game of cricket. Sussex are playing well above themselves and making Gloucestershire fight every inch for what they must have anticipated would be a routine victory.

Sussex claimed an unexpected first-innings lead of four thanks to a resourceful century partnership for the eighth wicket between Moores and Bates, who is playing his second championship match. When Khan, their developing leg-spin bowler, took the wickets of Windows, Church and Dawson in a worthy afternoon spell of 11-4-31-3 down the slope, they had their opponents in discomfort at 101 for four. The enigmatic Jarvis had plucked our Trainer in the second ball of the innings.

The way he came through it says much for the man. He could not prevent Weston from completing a century in only nine minutes short of six hours or Worcestershire from leaving. Glamorgan with much to do if they are to win today, but to bowl unchanged for 37 overs from just before lunch until the close and take three for 90 was, as the late Ken Barrington used to say, good bowling in anybody's cup of tea.

Glamorgan had begun the day 121 behind with two wickets in hand thanks entirely to their captain, Matthew Maynard, who had saved them from the threat of the follow-on with a quite magnificent 140 not out, which Tom Graveney, no less, said was the best innings he had ever seen at New Road.

Wager Younis had helped him put on 100 for the ninth wicket when he was caught at mid-on for 46 and Maynard was unbroken on 161, scored off only 145 balls with 29 fours, when Glamorgan were all out 78 behind.

So, too, were those scored by Ecclestone, whose innings ended when he was bowled by one of the few balls Attaul turned significantly. Trescotthick was still there at the close, having made his second half-century of the season in only his ninth innings.

## Trescothick pitches in

By IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (third day of four): Somerset, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 239 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

mer England captain, nearly

gave him the man of the match award after the fifth Test.

There is something in this

pitch for the medium-pacers,

but siding out runs is quite

possible too. For instance,

Nottinghamshire gained

maximum batting points for

the first time this season. As

we are in mid-August, that is

hardly anything to crow

about, but then Metcalfe, who

made 79, has been given all

but a few opportunities. He

faces 190 balls and struck

nine fours, three of them in

the first over of the day from

Shane, and there were useful

contributions from Franks,

who finished with an unbeaten

42 and Evans.

Nottinghamshire gained a

first-innings lead of 19. They

then swiftly removed Bowler,

who left the crease with

the marked dislocation after

he was caught at the wicket

in the 10th over.

Shane, having taken 10 for

140, had 100 runs in hand

and 125 runs ahead of

an innings defeat against Yorkshire.

THIS is as exacting and

engrossing a championship

match as any played at Trent

Bridge this season. For the

time being, Somerset are in

the ascendancy, as a result of

Marcus Trescothick making

his highest score of the season

— an unbeaten 70, with seven

fours — Simon Ecclestone

striking 65 and Mark

Lathwell 47. Nottinghamshire,

if they are to win today,

will have to bat as soundly as

they did in the first innings.

Much of the credit for this

being such an evenly-balanced

contest should go to Steve

Bowler, the run-up in the

groundsmen of the year

award last summer and a

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# Dominant Doohan stops bikes' big break

**M**otorcycling: at least it is in Great Britain, is one of the great also-rans of television sport. Each year is supposed to be the year that's the breakthrough big-time, and each year it never quite does. A lot of people think that is Michael Doohan's fault.

That seems a little unfair on the man who won his fourth 500cc world championship at Donington Park yesterday, but that's the thing about television — it is unfair. As Barry Nutley put it on *Sunday Grandstand*: "The problem with someone being so dominant and the machinery being so dominant is that it tends to detract from interest in the sport."

Indeed it does. Yesterday, it was all the BBC could do to manage live coverage of the big race. Faced with Doohan's supremacy and the poor showing by British riders (just one in the 500cc race), the BBC has latterly concentrated its efforts on the British superbike championship, where battle resumes next weekend at Knockhill. But, as this was the British Grand Prix...

Quite who was providing the pictures for Nutley and Steve Parrish to commentate on, I have yet to ascertain. Last year, with the BBC distracted by the Olympic Games in Atlanta, it was Eurosport, the satellite channel, which acted as host broadcaster. This year, Eurosport said that it was not

them and the BBC were equally keen to distance themselves. "I suspect our international director will show us a replay of that," Nutley said, cleverly insuring both himself and his employer should a replay of Barros' showing Abe off the track not prove forthcoming. This time, it was, but I suspect that it will be the same international director who will shoulder the blame for the astonishingly tacky build-up to the race, which featured lingering close-ups of the pit-lane dailies and what briefly appeared to be a beautiful bottom competition. Goodness know what Murray Walker would have made of it.

Having watched the 125cc and 250cc races in the excitable



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

company of Toby Moody and Dennis Noyes on Eurosport, the Nutley-Parrish combination sounded rather flat by comparison. That's partly because this was the BBC, which does not go in for loud shouts of "whoah" — that's the mother of all high-siders — and partly because the 500cc was the least exciting race of the day. The chequered flag, when it came, was something of a

relief, but still seemed to take Nutley by surprise. "I wonder if we'll get a victory wheelie," was how the championship moment was captured. We did not, which seemed entirely in keeping with the prevailing sense of anti-climax.

Up until then, I thought that Moody and Noyes were about as noisy as motorcycle commentary gets. Two American accents against the single British

voice of Moody seems a curious and occasionally jarringly noisy, a decibel level rendered all the more remarkable by the fact, as far as I can tell, that they do their commentary off monitors in London rather than track-side in Austria.

The big minus is the regular ad breaks, which used to bring the channel's Formula One coverage and which can take four or five laps out of the far shorter motorcycle races. All that said, Eurosport is the only channel providing live and exclusive coverage yesterday apart of the FIM world championship.

A few minutes after Doohan had passed the finish, I discovered that Moody and Noyes are positively mute when compared to the commentary provided by Keith Huewen and

Julian Ryder for the world superbike championship on Sky. They are astonishingly good, a decibel level rendered all the more remarkable by the fact, as far as I can tell, that they do their commentary off monitors in London rather than track-side in Austria.

By and large, their commentary is good, if somewhat chaotic, stuff. They finish sentences for each other, correct each other and laugh at each other's jokes. It is this last habit that occasionally introduces an annoying tone of self-satisfied smugness, but that's the thing about cult commentary — it never pleases everyone. Not all the time, anyway.

The horses wear egg-cosies but it's the riders who get embarrassed on Derby day at Hickstead

## Plenty of puissance but no sign of Stroller

**I**t's not always easy to know what's going through a horse's mind, but, to judge purely by body language, there is a pretty uniform equine reaction to the famous Derby Bank (Jump No 8) at Hickstead. For 37 years, it has been the same sequence of responses and it goes like this.

Wide-eyed horse gamely climbs steep slope (jump 8a), then hops over a teeny jump (8b). "What a doodle," horse thinks. "The world is a pleasant place, I'd say, and what a great view, to boot."

Then horse takes a single, happy stride and skids dramatically to a halt, looking in astonishment down a sheer ten-foot descent. "For God's sake!" he exclaims, hooves backpedalling wildly and nostrils flaring. "What the hell is this, you lunatic! *Thelma and Louise*?"

They never change — the Hickstead Derby course. It's a matter of principle and it makes good sense. You see, if those massive, frightening rails, walls and ditches were made easier over the years (like A-levels), you couldn't judge today's riders and horses by the same standards as those of yesterday.

The only (unforeseeable) trouble with this policy is that, for someone who has not watched showjumping for about 20 years, the event encourages unhelpful feelings of nostalgia for a time when colour telly was a new invention, when Raymond Brooks-Ward was a household name and Harvey Smith turned up on Christmas specials disguised as an unlikely Santa.

You see, I remember that wide, wide wall at Hickstead! And I also remember David Broome (sniff) and Eddie Macken! Look, the Devil's Dyke! That was always so troublesome, wasn't it? Hop over the wooden pole, then down the ditch, then another pole, then a climb and a third, impossible pole. And, now I come to think of it, wasn't there a time when the mere

**LYNNE TRUSS**



words "Marion Mould on Stroller" would reduce me to tears? Stroller! Oh, Stroller! Oh God.

New to me since those happy days is the bizarre practice of encasing the horse's ears in long, thin egg-cosies, but, apart from that, nothing appeared to have changed. The drama was the same as always. Riding sixth out of 29, John Popely went early into first place with four faults, so we all held our breath for the next hour to see if anyone would go clear and beat him. Nobody did, so he won.

The course has always been good at embarrassing the hell out of riders and lots were cruelly embarrassed yesterday, with poles down and water splashed and burns on grass and post-Bank horses visibly changing their minds about whether jumping was really the nice career they had originally signed up for.

Because most went clear until that damn scary Bank and then — well, their capacity for saintly forgiveness was obviously a factor. That pesky Bank may have taken



Richard Barton and Just Marius prepare to descend the infamous Derby Bank at Hickstead yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert / Allsport

them in a variety of ways — some pirouetting on the verge, some gamely sliding stiff-legged back to earth — but all, rightly, looked pained and affronted.

*Future Vision*, ridden by Daniel Meech, dithered so splendidly — hoof out, hoof back, yes, no, all right, no hang on, whoa — that he appeared to be doing the hokey-cokey. A disqualifying claxon put an end to his deliberations, thank goodness. I have to say, I was completely on his side.

Yes, as I said earlier, it is often quite easy to see what a horse is thinking and yesterday afternoon provided plenty of opportunity for observation. When *Clover Chief* threw Geoff Luckett at the third

fence, for example, he cantered off on his own, and, to the delight and astonishment of the crowd, simply refused to be caught.

It was brilliant. We horse-lovers lapped it up and didn't want it to end. We even speculated, feverishly, that, if he continued to elude everybody, the event would have to be abandoned.

*Clover Chief* taunted the officials in panama hats: "Catch me if you can." But, when they made a move towards his reins, it was another story. "Can't you?" he jested, turning and galloping off for the umpteenth time. "OK, I'm coming in now," he promised.

trotting paddock-wards. "Fooled you!" he joshed, dodging.

In the crowd, people made encouraging "cluck-cluck" noises, but they just added to the confusion. Personally, I wanted to shout "Go, go, *Clover Chief*! And gallop like the wind!" — though I wonder if I'm betraying my juvenile reading habits a bit too obviously here.

If none of the leading riders of horses meant anything to me, and if the name *Mister Softee* rose mostly to the surface of memory, I have to say I blame the telly. How dare the BBC treat showjumping so shamefully, subtracting it from mainstream British culture?

Showjumping is exciting, and

with a bit of help from the media, it breeds personalities. Plus, the horses are almost shockingly beautiful, which ought to count for something.

If showjumping's associations are with wealth, women and nobility, who cares? *Hello!* magazine noticeably manages to overcome such obstacles. Meanwhile, that shaggy zzz-factor of Formula One is associated with a great deal more wealth than this.

No, by a wholly avoidable tragedy, the word "puissance" has slipped right out of common parlance. Retrieving it from the depths of memory yesterday was such an effort that I had to have a little lie-down.

Lucky I didn't go around Hickstead saying "Ah, Paul Schockemöhle, I suppose nobody remembers him?" because he's now a big cheese around here, and was announcing a new plan yesterday to add a two-day event of dressage and cross-country to the Derby event. A lot of his press conference passed me by, but I have to say I was delighted when his mobile phone interrupted him, playing the *William Tell* Overture. What a fabulous choice. And whatever the horses think of it all, what a very, very nice day.

Photograph, page 23  
Popely's victory, page 24  
Bartle first in Scotland, page 24

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. Should include a daytime telephone number.

### Problems of development

From Mr Geoffrey Stock

Sir, Cricket's proposed revamp under the MacLaurin blueprint seems to miss the point. It is the three-day or four-day county championship which best develops the skills and attitudes needed for Test cricket. The patient, disciplined building of an innings, the ability to bowl for long periods, and the stamina both physical and mental, required to wear down the opposition, are all attained through playing in longer matches. The one-day game, on the other hand, frequently encourages unorthodox, risky or simply bad shots, as batsmen strive to maintain a given run-rate.

Yet the review recommends an increase in the one-day game at the expense of the championship, even though it is England's recent Test record which is poor.

It seems the real reason behind the new thinking is to bring back crowd. If that had been their brief, fair enough; but it was not. The declared aim was the improvement of the standard of cricket in our country and this intention has hardly been addressed. Cricket academies sound interesting enough — but where do the candidates for these acad-

emies come from? The schools and clubs who foster their interested talents. But where are the resources to back up the efforts of the schools?

The denise in English cricket can arguably be traced to the 1980s when sports teachers in their droves withdrew the goodwill of after-school coaching on account of the greatly increased workload they were being asked to undertake. This, together with a general lack of funding and resources, led to a significant slump in both the quantity and quality of cricket coaching being undertaken in our schools.

This is the grass-roots problem that needs to be addressed. Youngsters all over the land are crying out for a real introduction to the game; they deserve a response, at primary school level, not later.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE E. G. STOCK,

68 Radnor Road,

Horfield, Bristol 7.

From Mr Warren Knock

Sir, It is hardly surprising that cricket is "in danger of becoming a minor spectator sport" (report, August 6) when it is so difficult to watch county cricket. More often than not Saturdays during the season offer little more than one or two endings of four-day matches, the rest having finished in three days (all weekdays — working days to most people). Very

### Drunken behaviour sets a test for cricket

From Mr P. J. Kirby

Sir, As the lights went out on England's hopes of capturing the Ashes at Trent Bridge so too must have the desire of many cricket-loving spectators to return to the Test arena.

When will we ever again be able to attend a Test match and watch the play without concentration being destroyed by those who progressively get worse for drink and in turn become more noisy with their lewd behaviour and obscene outpourings?

Last Sunday, with about an hour of play left, one individual who had managed to spoil the day for hundreds of others in the William Clarke stand was finally asked to leave. With him 200-300 more could quite easily have gone.

little cricket is available on

Bank Holiday Mondays. Add to this the number of times when, at 6pm, with the sun burning down, play ends for the day, with an hour or two more of daylight left.

It must surely make sense to promote the real game of four days, and to make it possible for more people to watch. Play until 7.30 or 8pm in midsummer. Play four-day matches from Friday Monday. Promote the stars (cashed between Gough and Atherton in the Yorkshire v Lancashire match for instance).

Yours faithfully,

WARREN KNOCK,

Kingshead House,

Birdlip, Gloucestershire.

From Mr David Morgan

Sir, Athletes from all over the world struggled to compete in the sweltering heat of a Mediterranean summer during the world athletics championships in Athens. Last year the Olympics were held in the roasting temperatures of Atlanta and before that the football World Cup took place sometimes in over 100F.

Is it not time that more attention was given to not just where such sporting events are held but when? There seems to be much competition to stage international sporting events but absolutely no consideration is ever given to the

athletes, sportsmen and officials who have to perform or officiate at them. To hold any sporting event in temperatures often in excess of what the human body can successfully cope with is unacceptable as it is foolhardy. It is surprising that nobody has died of heat stroke at one of these events; one day someone surely will.

Surely it is not beyond the capacity of the organising bodies to stage such events at a time and in conditions more favourable to those involved.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID MORGAN,

8a Downsway, Merrow,

Guildford, Surrey.

DAV235R@aol.com

### Light out of darkness

From Dr Neale Fretwell

Sir, As one of the 24,516 who sat patiently for nearly 30 minutes whilst repairs were effected to the electrics at Pride Park stadium, Derby, last Wednesday evening, I was disappointed at the decision not to resume play after 9.30pm.

During the power failure a general announcement advised that repairs were in progress and that all should remain seated, implying that a restart of the game was expected at 9.30 local radio broadcast as the referee, Uriah Renzie, in his first Premiership game, had set a deadline for the resumption of the game and that this point had arrived; therefore the game was abandoned. No formal announcement had been made at this point.

David Mellor's football task force needs to address exactly this kind of issue, where the real losers are the attending supporters, many of whom have incurred increasingly large, non-refundable expenses to attend an enjoyable game that could with a minor amount of flexibility and logic have been completed.

The regrettable evidence of supporters' frustrations were witnessed by many outside the ground as isolated incidents of sporadic violence towards small groups of Wimbledon supporters occurred.

I sincerely hope that Renzie, the police and the Football Association learn something from this evening, rather than just sweep it under the carpet and lay the blame at Derby County's door, which I suspect will be the case.

Yours sincerely,

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This week in

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

With the start of the Ebor meeting at York, *The Times* introduces Timekeeper, an exclusive speed ratings service, to help in the search for horse racing winners

Wednesday

Bosra Sham goes for glory in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York

Thursday

How are Irish footballers faring in the race for France and the 1998 World Cup finals?

Friday

Eddie Jordan talks of his plans to join the magic circle of elite teams in Formula One

Managers draw satisfaction from shared points in game of few chances

## Strong candidates fail to impress



WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERS 0  
SHEFFIELD UNITED 0

By Oliver Holt  
Football Correspondent

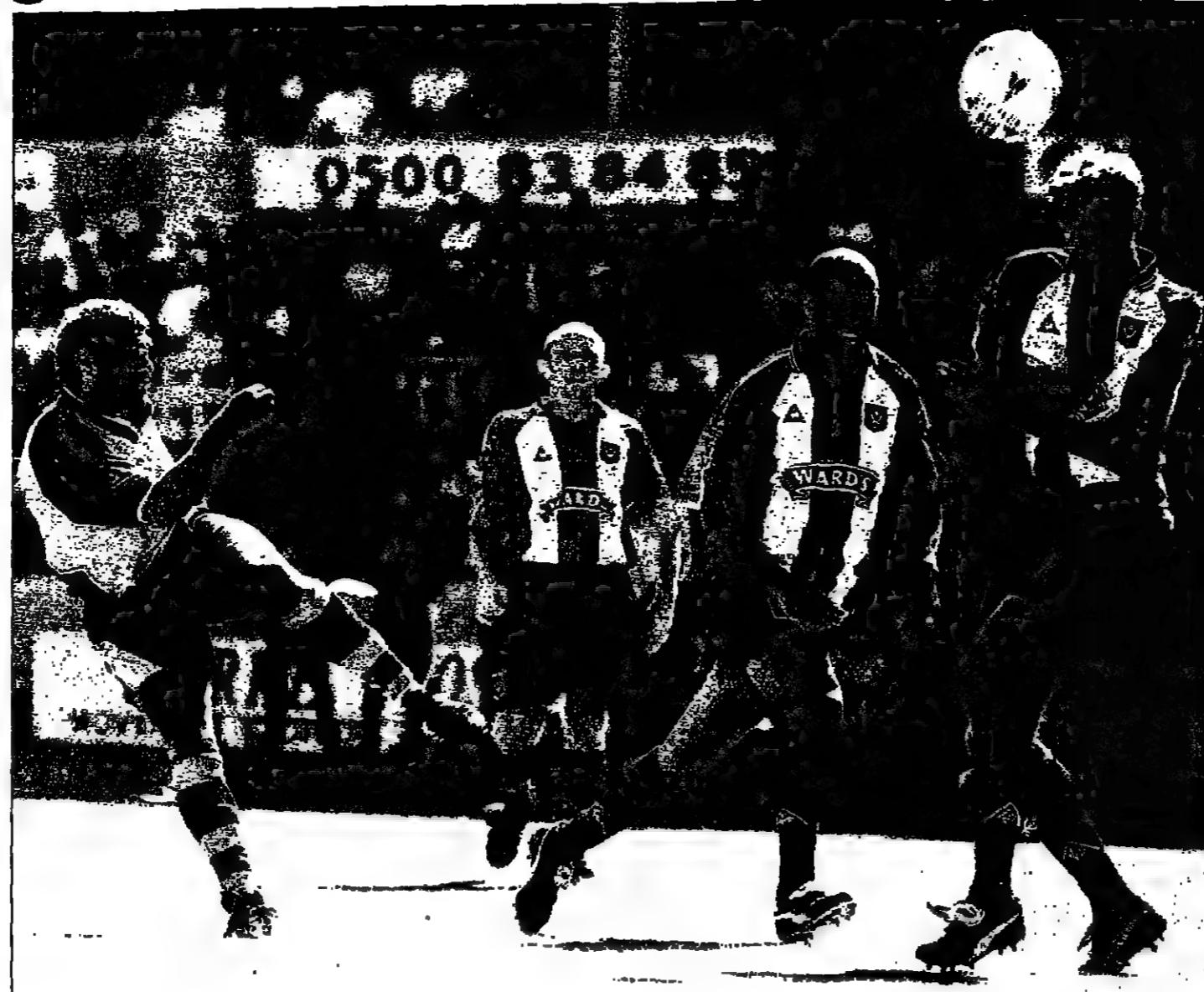
IT WAS 90F outside, but the Molineux stalls were serving coffee, not cold drinks, on Saturday. In the press room, they laid on some piping hot chicken soup by way of half-time refreshment with not an ice-cream in sight, and the team sheets that the Wolverhampton Wanderers officials distributed said that they were playing Crystal Palace, not Sheffield United.

The weird scenes inside Sir Jack Hayward's goldmine continued out on the pitch. Wolves and Sheffield, thought, tentatively, to be two of the best teams in the Nationwide League first division this season, contrived to produce a game that rarely rose above the mediocre and singularly failed to seize its chance to impress on a weekend when the FA Carling Premiership lay idle.

Robbie Keane, the young Wolves midfield player who earned rave reviews after he was plucked from the youth team to score twice on his first-team debut at Norwich City a week earlier, showed flashes of class but was disappointingly quiet. Steve Bull was substituted 15 minutes into the second half and the ageing Paul McGrath easily stifled what little Wolves could throw at the Sheffield defence.

Half-chance after half-chance went sailing over the bar at either end and Atkins caused a rare moment of hilarity when he galloped forward with the ball early in the second half and fell over it while at full tilt. Deane, who looks a far more dangerous and composed forward at this level than he did in the Premiership, missed two of the visitors' best chances, a sidefooted volley well-saved by Stowell after 13 minutes and a falling header midway through the second half that the goalkeeper again did well to keep out.

Wolves, whose team has been badly hit by long-term injuries to five key players, and who are chasing Sasa Cacic, of Aston Villa, often found it bafflingly difficult to work the ball out of their own defence. Even though they came closest to scoring, when Goodman's header from Frogatt's cross



Goodman, the Wolves forward, strives in vain to break the deadlock during the goalless draw at Molineux on Saturday

on the half-hour hit a post, their back four struggled consistently to move the ball out of defence, playing it from one to the other before giving up looking for the short ball to midfield and hoofed it upwards towards Goodman and Bull.

Afterwards, both managers professed themselves delighted with the result. Both said how good the other team was. Mark McGhee, the Wolves manager, who was quoted in the programme as saying he had had "the mother of all summers of discontent" after failing to win promotion last season, said that even at this early stage of the campaign, it would have been "disastrous" if Wolves had ceded three points to a team who are likely to become rivals in the race for the Premiership.

His own performance, that of a confident, innovative and articulate young manager, was the best of the day, on or off the pitch. With men like Mark Hateley and Chris Waddle, Spackman, the former Chelsea, Liverpool and Rangers player, is in the vanguard of a new breed of manager passionately committed to passing football and acting with the courage of their convictions.

"I was very satisfied," Spackman said. "I thought the lads played extremely well against one of the better sides in the division. Hopefully, Wolves will be up there with us at the end of the season. I think we had the best two chances in the game, but Mike Stowell made two tremendous saves."

"As far as my job is concerned, it

is a stressful life and sometimes it is hard to enjoy the game. You have just got to go into the job with confidence in your own ability, confidence you can do things as well as some of the past managers and learn fast."

"It is a young manager's game at the moment and I think that shows in some of the football that is being played across the leagues. It is becoming more of a passing game again with a few different formations. But this is a tight division: it is going to be hard to get out of it."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERS (4-3-1-2): M Stowell — J Smith (sub: J Wright, 82min), K Currie, S Sedgley, D Kitchell — M Alfons, D Ferguson, S Deane, R Ward — D Goodman, A Bull (sub: M Pritchard, 65).

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-2-2): S Tracey — D Holdsworth, P McGrath, C Tillie — D Wimbush, M Patterson, R Ward — B Lawrie, T Gosselin, J Drysdale, W Allison, C Hay (sub: S Farve, 86), Referee: P Dawson.

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Jack Charlton  
survive late  
panic attack

THE TIMES MONDAY AUGUST 18 1997

SPORT 31

Far from the glamour of Premiership football, struggling clubs are facing fight for survival

## Hereford miss chance to ease the pain

MICHAEL CALVIN



sees Welling inflict  
yet more trauma

TWO new photographs adorn the wall of the broom cupboard that doubles as Graham Turner's office. One depicts him walking, in a state of shock, through a line of riot police who are advancing on exultant Brighton supporters. The other, taken in the dressing-room immediately after his Hereford United team had lost Football League status, is a study of collective despair.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, the sight of grown men, sprawled on benches striped to the waist and weeping uncontrollably, represents a football fable. Yet, in Hereford's position, words are worthless. They are beyond rhetoric, beyond redemption, if the evidence of their opening Vauxhall Conference match on Saturday is to be believed.

A 2-1 home defeat by the musclebound mediocrities of Welling United maintained the pain of a uniquely traumatic summer. Turner has aged in the 107 days since Brighton survived at Hereford's expense. His face is paler, thinner. "I've never worked as hard in my life," he said with a sigh, but the intensity with which he twisted a ten-pence piece in his palm was infinitely more eloquent.

Edgar Street is the theatre of broken dreams. The managing director has resigned, along with the commercial manager. The public address announcer has been sacked for defying an order to stop playing records for fearful fans who wanted to sing in the ground on the fateful afternoon of May 3, when relegation was confirmed.

The traditional mascot, a prize bull, has been replaced by a volunteer, who risked heatstroke in a nylon outfit complete with plastic horns. Advertisers have withdrawn their support. Life's little luxu-



Rodgerison, of Hereford United, launches a cross into the Welling United goalmouth during his club's defeat at Edgar Street on Saturday

ries, from overnight hotel accommodation to boardroom canapés, are a thing of the past. Given the need to slash £200,000 from a £900,000 annual budget, the call, predictably, involved the release of nine players.

The strain of meeting the human costs of recession shows. Turner, a decent man, has difficulty rationalising his inability to give young players time to mature. He knew he was condemning family men to uncertain futures.

"At least the old pros have been around," he reflected. "They know what's coming in its sort of situation. But, to have to do that to young lads who've never had a start in life, is the worst feeling in the world. Well, that and taking a club out of the League."

The harsh realities of a new life are crowding in. Turner may have the only exclusively full-time squad in the Conference, from overnight hotel accommoda-

tion, but he cannot meet the wage demands of part-time prospects, who expect five-figure signing-on fees. He had to sell the leading scorer, Adrian Foster, to Rushden and Diamonds, the nouveau riches of non-League football.

Turner's title, director of football, encourages delusions of grandeur. He has had to

now as important as those of a new midfield player.

The culture shocks do not end there. Immediate intelligence is hard to gather on unfamiliar territory, although six scouts will be out watching Conference rivals in midweek.

The elation of the Welling players, who rushed to salute their 39 travelling fans,

mobility of a set of doormen at a south London nightclub. They played within their considerable limitations, but deserved victory because of their durability.

Ahead after 20 seconds, when Paul Copley, the captain, scored with a free header, they had the match won by the 27th minute, when Mark Cooper headed a second goal after Andy deBont missed a simple free kick. Tony Agana replied 13 minutes into the second half, but the crowd, in excess of 3,000, were in no mood to be appeased. They mocked the hapless deBont and barracked Tannoy announcements concerning coach travel to tonight's match at Hednesford.

Since their dignity in adversity was a key factor in the withdrawal of Turner's letter of resignation, this was ominous. "We needed to win today," the chairman, Peter Hill, acknowledged. "We are

living from hand to mouth and can only survive full-time for one season." He is looking for new board members, while Turner is looking to cultivate a Dunkirk spirit.

Sympathy — he was offered a free family holiday in the Bahamas by Jack Hayward, the Wolverhampton Wanderers owner, the day after the Brighton match — is not a convertible currency. Guilt is. "Those photographs should remind us what we are fighting for," Turner said, gesturing towards his office wall. "I want us to remember the feelings of that last day. There's a lot at stake for everyone, not least me."

HEREFORD UNITED (3-4-3): A deBont — T Mathewson, D Norton, R Walker — P Rodgerison, G Galton, C Hargreaves, M Pritchard, J Fawcett, S Fawcett, S McGonigle, N Grayson, A Aponte

WELLING UNITED (5-3-2): G Knight — L Wells, P Copley, D Norton, T Stevenson, A Pritchard, S Grayson, S Fawcett, S McGonigle, S Simpson, T Hill — M Cooper, N Wilson (sub J Turner, 88). Referee: R Oliver.

## Yeovil aristocrats celebrate in appropriate style

Walter Gammie watches one of non-League football's most famous names mark a return to the Vauxhall Conference elite with an opening-day victory

THERE was a crackle of anticipation in the treacle-thick air at Huish Park on Saturday. It was charged not just by the relief that the long-drawn rituals of pre-season skirmishing were finally over, but by an eagerness to assess whether the teams will be able to scoop the substantial rewards that the Vauxhall Conference has to offer.

The Conference, reinvented as a league with a majority of clubs equipped for the Football League, is all about burging rivals out of the way in the one-team-at-a-time entrance to higher status. The prize is a big draw. A crowd of 3,602 testified that, although supporters do not come more committed than those of Yeovil Town and Stevenage Borough, who shaded their hosts by an average 2,881 to 2,774 as the best-supported club outside the League last season.

The home contingent was, of course, celebrating the return of one of the old aristocracy of the non-League world to the elite after two wilderness years in the ICS League.

Stevenage, by contrast, are new boys on the block. Founded as a parks league club in 1976, their rapid subsequent advance has been fuelled by the commitment of the local council, the ambition of Victor Green, the chairman, and the energy and acumen of Paul Fairclough, the manager. Such is his side's reputation that, after an ordinary performance in defeat against understandably pumped-up opponents, Fairclough was questioned as to whether Stevenage had just suffered a rather larger calamity.

The side he built for the League, having been barred as champions because of ground-grading rules that the club's costly court appeal has since helped to relax and then been burnt out in pursuit of Macclesfield last season, has lost a backbone of players impatient to make the leap. Fairclough hoped to replace Barry Hayles — whose sparkling start with

Bristol Rovers surprises the Stevenage manager not one bit — with Paul Thompson, from Gateshead, only for the £15,000 signing to break his ankle and damage ligaments against Cambridge United after 70 minutes and "two superb goals" of pre-season football.

The experienced Corey Browne walked out last Thursday to join Slough Town and Fairclough said: "I spent most of last week trying to find forwards. I have spent only £12,000 in six years previously, but £30,000 already this season. The likes of Hayles were found on street corners and needed a year before they were ready. We have got players coming through our youth scheme, but they will need another year. So, I will have to buy again."

The burden on Saturday fell on Neil Treble, who worked manfully and crafted himself the space to angle

a fine equalising goal past Pencock just after half-time. Yeovil, meanwhile, in the return to form and fitness of Patmore, whose challenge upon Gallagher created a simple opening goal for Pickard, a £15,000 signing from Dorchestercity Town, in the 24th minute. Patmore then crashed in a far-post header in the 76th minute after Engwall had tormented Marshall on the left to provoke a small pitch invasion from exuberant supporters.

"All credit to Graham Roberts, the manager," Fry said. "He runs the side very professionally. In fact, we might be semi-professionals, but I know we are a lot more professional than many of the clubs in the League at the moment." It is the small matter of who will get the chance to prove it that promises an absorbing nine months to come.

YEOVIL TOWN (3-5-2): A Pencock, R Cousins, C White — L Harvey, C Fidder, S Brown (sub S Whittle, 87min), S Walker (sub G Kemp, 46), M Fawcett, S Grayson, S McGonigle, S Simpson STEVENAGE BOROUGH (5-3-2): D Gallagher — R Kirby, S Kelly, R Trott — R Marshall, J Somerton, M Smith, S Grayson — T March — N Treble, R Simpson (sub E Ebd, 59) (sub L Catlin)

Waterfall, to the north of the town, for the next century.

Slowly, then, muddied waters are becoming clearer and, under Gritt, Brighton are unlikely to come as close again to slipping into the Vauxhall Conference. They responded strongly after going behind and had chances to take the lead once they had levelled, through McDonald, after 62 minutes.

Equally, Macclesfield, promoted from the Conference last season, have enough about them to move upwards again. At times, their passing and movement was a delight.

They may prove a striker-light, but, in Sodje, they possess a stylish, solid defender and a colourful character, who plays in a bandanna because his mother believes it will bring good luck. Perhaps he could lend it to Gritt.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION (4-4-2): M Ormeed — J Humphrey, R Johnson, M Morris, G Hobson — S Storer, J Marion, D Pritchard, S Grayson, S McGonigle, S Wilson, J Westcott, Sodje, P McDonald — C Mackie, R Renell.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — D McDonald, S Grayson, S McGonigle, S Wilson, N Sorel, S Hitchen, N Michel, S Wood — A Mason, R Landon (sub P Power, 77). Referee: P Taylor

## Dunfermline revel in Celtic's confusion

Football matches have a habit of kicking refined concepts to pieces. With a 2-1 victory on Saturday, Dunfermline Athletic put the boot into Celtic's cosmopolitan plans. After that result on their own ground, Celtic are now bottom of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, having been beaten in each of their first two matches. Even at this stage, the handicap is severe.

Two seasons ago, Celtic lost only once in their entire league programme, yet still saw Rangers take the title. Now, in mid-August, they have already been overcome by Hibernian and Dunfermline, who had been viewed as candidates for relegation. Saturday's result infuriated supporters, who had been denied one certain penalty, later finding themselves presented with a far more dubious award, which Hamish French converted to win the match. The points were not pilfered, since Dunfermline ought to have scored on two or three other occasions.

Jansen's team were always vulnerable to the counter-

attack once David Bingham's equaliser had reduced them to recklessness. Celtic were in a panic then and tore themselves to pieces, with all thought of players abandoned as players resort to rash individualism. "They ran out of the shape," Jansen said of the formless mess that he had seen.

He was right, but it will take more than a few stiff training sessions to repair Celtic. Although the head coach has been alarmingly incapable of exerting any influence on events at his strange, new club, he is also hampered by a shortage of excellence. Celtic's

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

signing policy invites criticism, although not through the thoughtless claim that the club has been misery.

The reverse is the case. Given that almost a whole new ground has also been built, the outlay of £19 million in the transfer market over the past three years is astonishing. The real failure may lie in the squandering of cash on a plethora of respectable tradesmen who are not quite capable of coping with the heightened demands that they face at Celtic. Now, standards that were already unsatisfactory are slipping further.

The club has shown prudence in its sales, but the proceeds have not been spent on men of comparable talent. Pierre van Hooijdonk was transferred for £3 million and Celtic should raise as much when they off-load Jorge Cadete, but Tommy Johnson and Darren Jackson, the forwards signed to replace them, will never score as many goals as their predecessors.

While Jock Brown, the general manager, did handsome business in securing £3 mil-

lion and Regi Blinker from Sheffield Wednesday in return for Paolo di Canio, he must now buy someone who can supply the panache that once flowed from the Italian. Celtic require newcomers who will excite the crowd and scare the opposition.

While those supporters contemplated their lousy station, a fixture of consequence occurred at Tamadie yesterday, where Dundee United drew 1-1 with Hibernian. The home team took the lead after 22 minutes, through Robbie Winters.

United seemed to have weathered the dismissal of Maurice Malpas until a free kick, in the 77th minute, was harshly awarded against Siebh Dykstra, their goalkeeper, for time-wasting. Chic Charney rolled the ball sideways and Paul Tosh, a substitute, forced home a shot through a chink in the congested area. Hibernian join St Johnstone at the top of the table and the premier division, usually reckoned for its predictability, has acquired an appealingly roguish air.

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## CRICKET

# Stewart role keeps England selectors shuffling the pack

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN THEIR anxiety to reinforce a banting unit that has consistently failed them, the England selectors have produced a team for the final Test against Australia that is guaranteed to confuse their followers. Mark Butcher has been recalled after one match of exile, while the teenage wonder, Ben Hollioake, will drop out after a single cap. His brother, Adam, slips out of the top six, where he is demonstrably qualified to bat. And all of this relates to indecision over the appropriate role for Alec Stewart.

"Every selection meeting seems to start with Alec," David Graveney, the chairman, said yesterday. "Most probably finish with him, too, the balance of the side being utterly dictated by Stewart's position within it. It is a compliment to him and an undoubted privilege. There are times, though, when it is also a misfortune."

On his home patch at the Oval, Stewart will revert to No 3, a decision that will be seen as hasty abandonment of his return to opening. "It was only ever a short-term thing," Graveney said. "Maybe so, but as it means that only two of the top seven will occupy the positions that they held at Trent Bridge, it must be received with a measure of scepticism."

Graveney reports that the debate on Saturday evening occupied close to three hours. Much of it concerned Stewart, where he should bat and whether he should continue keeping wicket. The latter point was only decided after protracted consideration of restoring Jack Russell, a course I would firmly have favoured.

I believe the selectors were divided over the extent of Stewart's responsibilities but unanimous that he could not keep wicket again if he went in first. As this is an admission that his wicket-keeping has deteriorated through the summer, they should have relented of him first. Graveney said: "Stewart will doubtless be as surprised by his swift recall as

consistently scores for Gloucestershire and his wicket-keeping, by the common consent of his peers, remains on a different level to his rivals. For too long, he has been harshly restricted by the inability of England to uncover an all-rounder; there is now a clear case for saying that he fits the bill himself."

Certainly, it would be a travesty if anyone else was selected as second wicket-keeper for the tour of the West Indies, where Russell should finally achieve the fifth-cap for which he has now waited more than 12 months.

The desire of the selectors to strengthen the batting is understandable, whatever the merits of their methods. Since the increasingly implausible victory at Edgbaston, England

## SQUAD

Player/county	Age	Team
M A Atherton (Lancs), capt	25	72
M R Butcher (Surrey)	24	72
R J Cosgrove (Gloucestershire)	22	70
D W Headley (Kent)	27	68
B C Hollioake (Surrey)	19	68
D R Hough (Surrey)	21	68
N Hussin (Glamorgan)	24	68
D E Malcolm (Derbyshire)	24	68
M R Rainey (Lancashire)	24	68
A J Stewart (Surrey)	24	68
G P Thorpe (Surrey)	24	68
P C R Tufnell (Middlesex)	31	68

has conceded thumping first-innings deficits in every game. Ian Crawley has finally suffered the consequences of his return to opening. "It was only ever a short-term thing," Graveney said. "Maybe so, but as it means that only two of the top seven will occupy the positions that they held at Trent Bridge, it must be received with a measure of scepticism."

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"Stewart will doubtless be as surprised by his swift recall as

he was by his omission. He deserves another opportunity, though no more than Steve James, who continues to blaze a trail for Glamorgan and deserves an initial chance."

Carefully, Graveney did not

telephone James yesterday,

fearing that a call from him would raise hopes that a few seconds of conversation would dash. He intends, instead, to return to Worcester today to speak privately with him. Plainly, he has a good chance of touring this winter.

The most deflating news

brought to the selection table

was the breakdown of Darren Gough. Forced to miss the Trent Bridge Test by recurrent pains in his left knee, Gough was hopeful of returning at the Oval but suffered a setback when he tried to bowl in the nets on Friday.

To lose Gough for two

Tests and Dominic Cork for

the whole summer is a hefty

bill to our bowling resources," Graveney said. "Gough plainly has time on his side, but with this type of injury, we have to be concerned about him for the winter."

In the light of this, Devon

Malcolm was set for another

reprise anyway, but his ten

wickets at Derby on Saturday

will have been timely boost

to his self-esteem. Dean Headley is missing Kent's match against the Australians with a sore heel and Peter Martin is included in the party to cover for him.

Ben Hollioake will remain with the side, Surrey having no

game, and his all-round contributions to the present championship game at Lord's indicate that his Test initiation did him no harm. He has a big future; it must be handled correctly.

The final place in England's

XI will see another change.

Although Robert Croft remains in the party, he will now give way to Philip Trott, who has not played since the tour of New Zealand. Croft has had a chastening week; his reaction will gauge his strength of character.

Malcolm, who did his chances of a winter tour no good by bowling short and wide.

Once past fifty, Mahmood

really opened his shoulders,

striking five more sixes on his

way to 92. One of these sixes, off Peter Such, hit the rear wall of the Tom Pearce stand, while the first ball of a new Welsh spell was greeted with a huge straight drive into the gardens of Hayes Close. Mahmood, having hit five fours and six sixes, looked set for a deserved hundred when Brown had him caught behind.

That, in itself, was a kind of justice for Brown had dominated most of the day and the Scot ended it with career-best figures of seven for 83, which may have convinced Graham Gooch, the ECB manager here and England A manager this winter, that he is worth taking to Kenya and Sri Lanka.

The ball that removed the

Pakistan captain, Mohammad Wasim, was a real smasher that he could only glove to Maddy at second slip. He produced another good one to end Hasan Raza's fluent innings of 57 and looked certain to go on and wrap up the match until the seventh-wicket pair put an end to thoughts of an early finish.

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## CRICKET

# England let down by elementary blunders

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TAUNTON (England won toss): South Africa beat England by two wickets

ANOTHER blissful day, another stunning innings from Charlotte Edwards. All was not quite as promised for the England women's team yesterday, however, and in the course of losing the second one-day international against South Africa off the final ball, the shortcomings that could lose them the World Cup were intricately exposed.

The first of what should be many international centuries by the prodigiously gifted Edwards urged England towards an imposing 50-overs total of 253 for five. It ought to have put the game beyond the raw South Africans, but a woeful hour in the field put England at risk.

When the fielding restrictions ended after 15 overs, South Africa were 93 without loss and Karen Smithies, the England captain, was betraying her stress levels. Denise Reid, a left-handed Cape coloured, rode her luck outlandishly. She was dropped three times, all off Smithies' bowling. Suddenly, England were a rabble, the bowlers forgetting the fundamentals and the captain setting naïve fields.

To their credit, they pulled the game round. Once the opening pair had been split, indeed, the South African momentum gradually ebbed away and, with 19 needed from three overs, with seven wickets down and the impressive Helen Davies just out, it seemed their chance had gone.

England, however, then reverted quickly to type. Two more catches were put down, including a gentle lob to Smithies from the second ball of the last over. South Africa, needing nine from those six balls, scrambled the last two through another fielding fumble. Anina Burger was the matchwinner, unbeaten on 27, and England wandered off, scarcely able to credit their loss.

Conrad Hunte, the South Africa coach, can be proud of his team and those who go to Lord's on Wednesday, with the series tied at a game apiece, can expect to see a contest. They may not feel it right now, but the chastening



Edwards: great future

foot than any English woman of recent times. She had not made a century until this season; now, remarkably, she has.

Yesterday's hundred came

from only 113 balls and included 15 fours, most hit with dismissive force. Her opening stand with Helen Plimmer produced 95 and only when Edwards reached her century and turned delightedly to every corner of the ground did she look gauche. Otherwise, it was impossible to believe her youth.

Her uninhibited style needs no curbing, but her occasional tendency to play across the line could benefit from another session with Mike Gatting, who coached the women in pre-season.

## SCOREBOARD FROM TAUNTON

ENGLAND		SOUTH AFRICA	
I. Edwards c Daniels b Reynolds	62	I. Oliver c Daniels b Reynolds	62
b Sculthorpe	102	b Reid bow b Reffem	58
H. Plimmer c Price	39	b Terblanche b Caesar Leng	27
B Daniels lbw b Price	13	H. Davies c and b Connor	48
S. McCallum run out	10	H. Davies c and b Connor	48
K. Leng c Price b Sculthorpe	50	b Price run out	27
M. Reid not out	1	A. Burger not out	27
E. Reid (b 6, w 7)	12	R. Stoop run out	0
Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 3)	5	1. A. Burger not out	0
Total (5 wkt, 50 overs)	253	2. H. Davies not out	0
*K. Smithies, C. Connor, S. Redfern and C. Taylor did not bat		3. H. Davies 105-2, Leng 105-3, Plimmer 105-4, Edwards 105-5, Davies 105-6, Davies 105-7, Davies 105-8, Davies 105-9, Davies 105-10, Davies 105-11, Davies 105-12, Davies 105-13, Davies 105-14, Davies 105-15, Davies 105-16, Davies 105-17, Davies 105-18, Davies 105-19, Davies 105-20, Davies 105-21, Davies 105-22, Davies 105-23, Davies 105-24, Davies 105-25, Davies 105-26, Davies 105-27, Davies 105-28, Davies 105-29, Davies 105-30, Davies 105-31, Davies 105-32, Davies 105-33, Davies 105-34, Davies 105-35, Davies 105-36, Davies 105-37, Davies 105-38, Davies 105-39, Davies 105-40, Davies 105-41, Davies 105-42, Davies 105-43, Davies 105-44, Davies 105-45, Davies 105-46, Davies 105-47, Davies 105-48, Davies 105-49, Davies 105-50, Davies 105-51, Davies 105-52, Davies 105-53, Davies 105-54, Davies 105-55, Davies 105-56, Davies 105-57, Davies 105-58, Davies 105-59, Davies 105-60, Davies 105-61, Davies 105-62, Davies 105-63, Davies 105-64, Davies 105-65, Davies 105-66, Davies 105-67, Davies 105-68, 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## RACING: NIARCHOS FAMILY IN SEVENTH HEAVEN AFTER PRIX JACQUES LE MAROIS



Spinning World draws clear of Daylami to capture the Prix Jacques le Marois for the second year running at Deauville yesterday

## Spinning World widens orbit

FROM CHRIS MCGRATH  
AT DEAUVILLE

There are times when the only way to keep something in the family is through a spot of World domination. At Deauville yesterday, Spinning World honoured the Prix Jacques le Marois with the best miling performance of the European season, — in the process making it seven wins in 11 years for the Niarchos family, which sponsors the race through its nearby stud, Fresney-le-Buffard.

The family's sixth winner, 12 months ago, had been this same dashing son of Nureyev. Spinning World disappointed when only fourth in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury in the spring, but yesterday confirmed that he shares all the star quality of the family's previous winners, East Of The Moon, Exit To Nowhere, Hector Protector and Miesque (twice).

In a vintage season for older horses, there is now the possibility of a match between this specialist miler and the

French middle-distance champion, Heliosio, who may be adventurously dropped in trip for the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp on September 7. As trial for his second Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Spinning World honoured the

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## Champagne attracts Guineas leaders

BY OUR IRISH RACING  
CORRESPONDENT

KING OF KINGS put himself back at the forefront of the 2,000 Guineas betting by winning at the Curragh on Saturday, but a more severe test for the Aidan O'Brien-trained two-year-old could come in next month's Laurent-Perrier Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, in which he would meet Daggers Drawn.

After watching King Of Kings beat the Mark Johnston-trained Sharp Play by 1½ lengths in the listed Flame Of Tara Tyros Stakes, O'Brien declared that the Champagne or the Faturity Stakes, at the Curragh in two weeks' time, would be the colt's next race.

A stable spokesman said yesterday: "King Of Kings is in great shape and Aidan will talk to the owners over the next few days about where he will run next."

Ladbrokes was sufficiently impressed by Saturday's effort to make King Of Kings 6-1 joint-favourite with Daggers Drawn for the Guineas, but the Harrow firm was in a minority to be convinced by the victory.

King Of Kings cruised up, under Christy Roche, to join Sharp Play over a furlong out, but, when asked to quicken, King Of Kings's head carriage became noticeably high and he drifted slightly right before eventually winning comfortably.

"If that's the Guineas favourite then I've got a whole hand to have a go at him," Johnston said. "I know Sharp Play is in the first division of my two-year-olds, but I wouldn't mind taking King Of Kings or again with either him or Princely Heir. Sharp Play lost his stride two furlongs out and has caught himself twice on his left hind."

O'Brien said: "I'm happy with that, but when he gets to the front he thinks he's done enough and starts looking around him. We have got to teach him to go on and run to the line."

There was a British success in the group three Royal Whip Stakes when the Roger Charlton-trained King Alex beat Rayboun by a short head.

David Loder's feeling that Starborough is best racing round a bend was vindicated

— if not the decision to run

## RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROYAL SHYNESS  
(4.30 Windsor)  
Not best: Sabadilla  
(2.30 Windsor)

what happened to Mark Of Esteem and Ashkalani, and he's still going strong," Pease said. "He has got to be good to go with Tivus Lutus, a group-class sprinter, at home and yet to stay the mile so well. As for the Moulin, I hope the pacemaker hasn't had too hard a race."

David Loder's feeling that Starborough is best racing round a bend was vindicated

— if not the decision to run

over this straight mile. "I take my hat off to the Niarchos family," the trainer said. "The horse was racing from the wing go, and you can't go flat out for six furlongs without using up energy. I feel sorry for him, and blame myself."

Starborough may now return

to Ascot, scene of his finest

hour at the royal meeting, for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes on September 27.

The Niarchos dynasty has serenely sustained its place at the heart of European racing, despite a period of uncertainty as it mourned the loss of Stavros, the patriarch, and François Boutin, the principal trainer. There was, however, a significant stir in the French sport's power structure only last week when Freddie Head — who rode Miesque — announced his retirement. He is to train from Boutin's old

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O'Brien said: "I'm happy with that, but when he gets to the front he thinks he's done enough and starts looking around him. We have got to teach him to go on and run to the line."

There was a British success

in the group three Royal Whip Stakes when the Roger Charlton-trained King Alex beat Rayboun by a short head.

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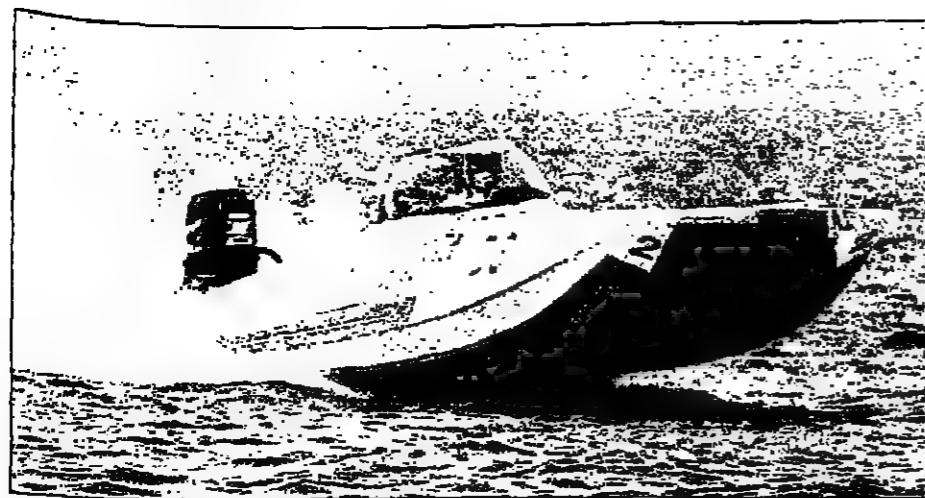
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The powerboat speedster Neil Holmes puts the *Talley Medical* through her paces

## White-knuckle ride across the waves

**Victoria Walker holds on tight as she goes for a 100mph spin aboard a powerboat**

**F**ew people have travelled faster on water than they have on land. Even fewer have topped 100mph in a boat. But with the help of the five times powerboat world champion, Neil Holmes, I achieved both.

In preparation for next weekend's National Express world four-litre championship at Cowes, Holmes, 37, took me for a spin in his £100,000 catamaran, *Talley Medical*. Holmes casually eased *Talley Medical*, which has a six-litre, 600hp engine and can reach 120mph, to 105mph. The Lymington-Yarmouth ferry did not stand a chance. From a standing start outside Yarmouth's harbour, our boat sped to Lymington in one minute and 21 seconds: the ferry takes half an hour.

I am a natural scaredy-cat, so I was not looking forward to this assignment. And powerboat racing is dangerous. There have been several horrifying accidents. In 1990, Stefano Casiraghi, husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco, was killed in a crash. Dick Fulham died during practice in 1985. In the 1995 world championship, Hamed Buhalloot was killed when his Victory Team boat flipped in the Solent. Why anyone would want to risk their lives, therefore, for the sake of screaming around the ocean at great speed was quite beyond me. I put the question to Holmes: "I am an adrenalin junkie," he

confessed. "And I love being on water. Once you get salt water in your blood, there's no stopping you."

It was as I feared: I was placing my life in the hands of a madman. Yet on the water everything was different. Holmes was cool and fully in control of a beast that had so much power it could go from 0 to 60mph in about three seconds. At 40mph, the catamaran aquaplaned along the surface. Sprays sprayed the

side of the boat from bow to stern.

As Holmes released the throttle to increase the speed, he "trimmed" the nose of the craft, creating an air pocket beneath the twin hulls, until we were effectively gliding above the water. No spray was visible and the ride became smooth. Holmes said: "We can go much faster if we can get above the water and escape the slowing effect of its friction." To this end, and as driver, Holmes not only steers and controls the throttle but constantly "trims" the boat to achieve the most aerodynamic — and safe — angle.

The cockpit canopy of *Talley Medical* was made of the same reinforced material as an F-16 fighter jet. The bucket seats are like a fighter-jet's and space is minimal.

Tied in with a five-strap safety harness so tightly I could not move, I was seated behind Holmes in the navigator's chair. I wore full, flame-retardant overalls, crash helmet and lifejacket. To my right was the speedometer (which I monitored with exhilarated alarm for the entire journey), between my feet was the dome of a large compass. Attached to the back of Holmes's chair was a chart, plotting the route of a race and position of marker buoys, to my left an intercom system, so I could talk to the driver.

Holmes recalls: "In one race we found ourselves heading towards Poole in a tight pack with boats all around. Sud-

denly, Jim told me to stop. 'Stop the boat!' I asked. He said 'Yes', I stopped, and all the boats around us tore off into the distance. Jim then pointed to port and said: 'There's the buoy'. Trapped among the pack, the buoy had been missed by the other boats. By stopping, we were able to gain the space to turn left to the buoy, as well as losing the pack."

Competitors have to read set buoys on the course, which are marked by race officials. These markers can be ten miles apart, and in the open sea a good navigator can win or lose a race for the team.

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There is no denying that powerboat racing can be an expensive sport. It is perhaps most popular in the rich Arab states, where drivers own their boats outright and race with little or no sponsorship for big prize money.

But most people get into the sport at a much lower — and cheaper — level. It is possible to get a second-hand boat that

could be used for recreation as well as racing for about £2,000. But it would not be possible simply to buy the top-of-the-range, monster boat if you had, say, a big lottery win, then go out racing.

Race organisers would consider it too dangerous for a novice to join a high-power race. Newcomers to the sport have to work their way up through the classes.

Peter Dredge, the Powerboat Racing and Motor Cruising Manager of the Royal Yachting Association, believes that powerboat racing is one of the best-kept secrets in sport.

He explains: "A lot of people get into racing in offshore events like Poole's Cancer Research Race, a 40-mile event open to people with recreation-

al boats such as ski-boats." It is even possible to make money out of the sport. Holmes has been able to make a good living by using his technical expertise as an engineer to build, tune and test boats, as well as winning prize money through his skill as a racer.

His skill, however, does not end there — he proved quite adept as a "scaredy-cat pacifier". I have had few experiences in my life to equal the thrill and enjoyment I had as we messaged about in the waters of the Solent.

As we eased *Talley Medical* back into Lymington harbour, I no longer needed to ask Neil Holmes why he risked his life and bank balance for such a crazy sport. He had shown me the answer.



A slightly hesitant Victoria Walker prepares for an exhilarating aquatic experience

### THE DUNK TEST

**B**efore I was allowed into a powerboat, I had to prove I could get out of it if it flipped over. All powerboaters must pass an annual immersion, or "dunk", test, in which a captain is simulated. Racers are not granted a licence to compete nationally by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) or internationally by the Union Internationale Motonautique if they lack a valid certificate.

And so I found myself submerged in the deep end of St George's pool in London's East End. In crash hat and overalls, and strapped into a mock-up of a powerboat cockpit, I was tipped upside down and told, "now get out of that".

The test rig may have looked like an instrument of torture, but I was learning how to save my life. My testers, the Osprey Powerboat Rescue Team, conducted the lesson with expertise and patience. Osprey, a voluntary organisation affiliated to the RYA, provides rescue assistance at national and international inland events.

My test officer, Andrew Newton, before guiding me through my test, told me: "You have



Victoria Walker is thrown in at the deep end

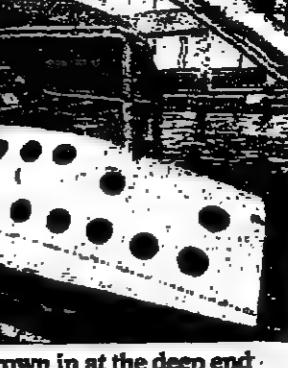
only to stay calm and you'll be fine."

Before I was allowed to start trying to escape after being flipped into the water, I had to wait for a tap on the shoulder by diver Carl Ogden, who monitored my progress underwater.

The routine is simple. First, remove the steering wheel from the steering column. Second, find the bar that forms the roof support and hold on to it. Third, release the seat-belt harness. Fourth, pull yourself down and out through the hole in the roof.

Upside-down, disoriented, with my eyes tightly closed, my first dunk was terrifying. I found it hard to get the steering wheel off, then forgot to grab the overhead bar before I released the belt. I eventually pulled myself out through a gap at the side of the rig, rather than through the roof.

My second and third dunks, however, were much easier. Even wearing blackened goggles to simulate dark or murky water, I knew what to expect and managed to complete the test without panic or mishap.



Powerboat racing

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Passport to Europe

REWARDING TIMES

SPORT TO EUROPE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This slam, from this year's Spring Foursomes, was misplayed by a current and an ex-international.

Dealer North East-West game IMPs

♦AQ92 ♦AJ ♦A84 ♦K1032  
♦J865 ♦K1055 ♦J102 ♦J265  
♦K1073 ♦Q64 ♦KQ763 ♦A4

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: Ten of hearts

The auction was similar at the two tables: North opened One Club, South replied One Diamond and North bid Two No Trumps showing 18-19 points. South continued with Three Spades, and after some cue-bidding both declarers ended in Six Spades.

At each table West led the ten of hearts. How should declarer play? If the spades are 3-2 he has no problem. But if the spades are 4-1 and declarer misguesses them he has to decide what to do about his potential losing heart.

In practice both declarers (Jason Hackett for the Mossop team and Willie Coyle for the Teltscher team) took the ace of hearts at trick one. Coyle guessed the spades correctly, so with the diamonds dividing 3-2 he was home. But Jason played the ace and queen of spades and a third round of spades to the king; he then played on diamonds, hoping to discard the losing heart from dummy on the fourth round. But West was able to ruff in on the third round of

hearts. The right line is to finesse the heart at trick one. As it is 50-50 who has the king of hearts, it is the better chance if declarer has to lose a spade. If diamonds had also split badly, a successful heart finesse would still leave declarer in good shape.

For details of *The Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge*, call the organisers on 0181-942 9706.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

#### SAHELIAN

- a. A religious rite
- b. An African region
- c. A loose, flowing gown

#### LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

- a. A laxative for home use
- b. The old, old story
- c. A cathedral

PIASSAVA

- a. A tropical fruit
- b. A Mediterranean holiday beach
- c. Coarse fibre

#### SAGINA

- a. A Puccini opera
- b. Grass substitute for lawns
- c. A small opening

Answers on page 41

### KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shared title

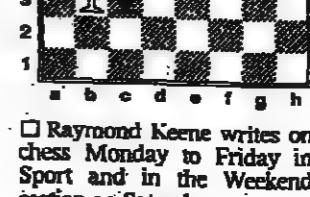
In the main section of the Smith & Williamson British championship, four players tied for first prize with 8½: Michael Adams, Matthew Sadler, Tony Miles and John Emms. After a further play-off, Adams and Sadler were declared joint champions.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Matthew Sadler  
British championship  
play-off, August 1997

**Sicilian Defence**

1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 Nf6  
3 Bb5 Bb4  
4 Nc3 Nc6  
5 Bb7 Bb7  
6 Nf3 Nf6  
7 Bb7 Bb7  
8 Nf3 Nf6  
9 Nf3 Nf6  
10 Nf3 Nf6  
11 Nf3 Nf6  
12 Nf3 Nf6  
13 Nf3 Nf6  
14 Nf3 Nf6  
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19 Nf3 Nf6  
20 Nf3 Nf6  
21 Nf3 Nf6  
22 Nf3 Nf6  
23 Nf3 Nf6  
24 Nf3 Nf6  
25 Nf3 Nf6  
26 Nf3 Nf6  
27 Nf3 Nf6  
28 Nf3 Nf6

Diagram of final position



□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Crossstable for British championship play-off

	1	2	3	4	Plus
1. Sadler	+	0	1	1	2
2. Adams	1	+	1	1	2
3. Miles	0	1	+	1	1½
4. Emms	0	1	0	1	1

In the above table, 1 represents a win, 0 a draw and 0 a loss

### By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Petrosian — Gusev, USSR 1968.

How did White expose a serious weakness in the black position?



Solution on page 41

THE TIMES

RELAIS & CHATEAUX

TOKEN 2

THE TIMES

CRICKET: TOURNAMENT TEACHES THAT SUBTLETY CAN BE AS SATISFYING AS INSTANT APPEAL

# How to win boys over to beauty of the game

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANY youngsters believe that cricket takes too long. They are not attracted by the need to devote hours and often days to the sport.

Alastair Natkiel, the captain of the Birmingham Under-16 team, accepts that sports such as football are "more instant", but he is attracted to cricket exactly because of its subtlety, its gradual development towards an often surprising climax. He is enthralled by the cycles and swings of the game.

As Natkiel, from King Edward's School, Birmingham, himself experienced as he led his side to victory in the Brivis inner city's cup final at Arundel last Thursday, a game can change dramatically in a few minutes.

Bristol, batting first, had begun badly. They lost three wickets for 24 before Gary Leadbetter, of St Catherine's School, who made 51, and Chris Phillips of Colston's, who made 23, steadied the innings. Scott Thompson, who was the best bowler of the competition, took five for 15.

Set 152 to win in 40 overs, Birmingham began impressively, reaching 101 before losing their second wicket. Yet then they collapsed, losing a further three wickets, including Natkiel for 51, and were 113 for five.

Suddenly, the leading Bristol bowlers, John Elliot and Nick Sagger, of Ridings High School, and Geoff Iles, of St Catherine's, were in charge and it needed staunch batting, mixed with savage hitting, to restore Birmingham's momentum. Asghar Ali and Thompson put on 31 before both were out quickly and Birmingham were suddenly wavering again.

## SPORT IN SCHOOLS

There was more tension before Birmingham won by three wickets with nearly seven overs to spare.

The pattern of the game exemplified what makes watching and playing cricket so enchanting.

The competition, started last year by the Lord's Taverners through the enthusiasm of Ken Lawrence, the former chairman, is one of the more perceptive ideas of school sport in recent years. It is restricted to boys who have not played for their county in the previous two years, so giving an opportunity to those just below the elite level.

John Barclay, the director of cricket at the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation, said: "The great thing is that you are bringing people out of their environment for a special few days. They mix with the boys from the other seven cities and there is a tremendous social and sporting uplift. When they go home, their ability will have improved and they can be more heartwarming than this tournament."

Barclay and a team of coaches instruct the boys between the 16 matches, which take place over three days with the final taking place at perhaps the loveliest ground in England, with trees surround-



Natkiel, batting for Birmingham Under-16s, learnt that a game can change dramatically within minutes

ing the playing area and the castle and the downs in the background. Barclay's enthusiasm for the event is infectious. "I love it," he said. "There are glamorous days at Test matches, but nothing could be more heartwarming than this tournament."

The match was watched by a bevy of cricketing grandees, led by Lord Cowdray of Tonbridge and Godfrey Evans.

The event is strongly

supported by the team managers, who have watched aghast as traditional cricket in state schools has been undermined by teachers' industrial actions, shorter, and earlier, summer terms and a greater emphasis on exams in the summer.

Ray Baker, the Bristol team manager, said: "Facilities are often very poor. There is insufficient preparation to play cricket confidently. I was coaching this year in one net

and there were holes in that net. There are also so many other distractions for youngsters that they feel that if they are not batting or bowling, some would rather play basketball — and you don't need particularly good facilities to play basketball."

Brian Hodder, the Birmingham team manager, believes that even if the plans for the future of English cricket of Lord MacLaurin of Kneb-

worth are implemented, it will still take at least ten years for there to be a substantial change in England's performances in Test matches.

He said: "Until more youngsters are introduced to the game at primary school, through activities such as kwick cricket, I can't see much improvement. The great problem remains competing with other sports in the 'instant' society in which we live."

## Government puts athletics at top of academy class

Athletics has always been the poor man of British sport. While football is rolling in cash and boxing becomes more dollar-charged with each pay-per-view bout, track and field has never grasped the knack of turning world-wide fame into healthy bank balances.

Its status as an also-ran in the profits division was confirmed over the weekend, when the Government said that athletics would be the main beneficiary of the proposed academy of sporting excellence. The logic was that football, cricket and rugby are doing well for themselves financially and can afford their own training because they can manage their own finances.

Global, athletics is not a poor sport. Nike has paid \$12 million to persuade Michael Johnson to wear its trainers and Linford Christie has been paid another multimillion-pound fee from Puma, who sponsored the sprinter from his feet to his contact lenses. Yet when it comes to distributing this money in a method that would benefit the sport, in general, British athletics seems not to want to know.

The problem is psychological. The IAAF, the sport's world governing body, has long held a deep-rooted suspicion of cold, hard cash and still prides itself on the amateur nature of the sport. With this comes a half-hearted approach to running itself as a business and, through this flaw, the money flows straight past the federation and into the hands of the sport's superstars.

To Roger Black, the Olympic 400 metres medal-winner, this demonstrates both the strength and the weakness of British athletics. He says the British Athletic Federation (BAF) encourages excellence because it is devoted to sport for the sport's sake, but, when it comes to passing round the hat, the job would be best given to somebody better versed in the art of making hard deals with sponsors and television companies.

He proposes a complete

split from the professional and amateur sides of athletics — a proposal that he has already laid before the BAF. The federation would still oversee amateur competition and development of young talent, with funds coming from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

Large commercial meetings, he said, should be given out to tender by venue management companies who are used to squeezing every last penny from the television stations and advertisers. This money should be re-injected into the sport and save the BAF from its pending cash crisis.

The coffers in the BAF are certainly not overflowing. Last year, it made a loss of £40,000 even after about £1 million in television revenue. This drain came after a year when only two of its six big meetings sold out.

Another course of action open is to plug the public demand for the increasingly popular "clash-of-the-titan" attitude meetings. The international demand for this has been proven with head-to-head competitions ranging from the Donovan Bailey v Michael Johnson 150-metre race to a Haile Gebrselassie v Nourredine Morceli showdown in Holland.

The cash is out there. Managed properly, athletes should be able to pay for its own academy and become ranked alongside football and cricket as a sport that can keep its amateur character at the same time as look after its own bank balance.

FRASER NELSON

## SPEEDWAY

### Leading trio boycott England

ENGLAND'S international series against Australia is in danger of collapse after three leading riders refused to ride for their country again until John Louis, the England manager, leaves his post (Tony Hoare writes).

The second match, due to take place at Eastbourne tonight, was cancelled when it was revealed that Gary Havell, the captain, Mark Loran-

and Joe Screen were refusing to ride. The British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA) called off the match because it could not put out a competitive side. Now, the third fixture, scheduled for Swindon on September 14, is in jeopardy after the trio refused a BSPA press release that stated they would compete at Swindon.

The three riders made their initial decision after Chris

Midland Private Banking

### Interest rates for Midland Private Banking customers

With effect from 18 August 1997

	Gross %	Net %
Private Banking Current Account		
Up to £2,000	0.40	0.32
£2,000+	1.48	1.19
£10,000+	3.21	2.56
£50,000+	3.45	2.76
	Gross %	Net %
Private Banking Savings Account (monthly interest option)		
Up to £25,000	4.65	3.72
£25,000+	4.99	3.91
£50,000+	5.13	4.10
£100,000+	5.61	4.48
	Gross %	Net %
Private Banking Savings Account (annual interest option)		
Up to £25,000	4.75	3.80
£25,000+	5.00	4.01
£50,000+	5.25	4.20
£100,000+	5.75	4.60

Investment Management: Cash held on the Capital Account within our Investment Management Service will earn interest at the following rates:

	Gross %	Net %
Up to £2,000	0.40	0.32
£2,000+	1.50	1.20
£5,000+	4.67	3.73
£25,000+	5.15	4.12
£50,000+	5.63	4.50

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings. Net: this is the annual rate of interest after the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.

Midland Private Banking is a trading name of Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, a subsidiary of Midland Bank plc. This interest rate notice is issued by Midland Bank plc, PO Box 757, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 4SS.

Member USPC Group

## TODAY

### FOOTBALL

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

#### Second division

#### Luton v Southend (7.45)

#### WAVES v Conference

#### Huddersfield v Hartlepool (7.45)

#### COLCHESTER v Ipswich (7.45)

#### WATFORD v Bury (7.45)

#### WILTON v SWINDON TOWN (7.45)

#### WATFORD v SWINDON TOWN (7.45)





## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Alliance Trust, Argos, Selsdon Building Society, Severn-Tide-Reserve, Taylor Nelson AGB, Torday & Canale, Final: None scheduled. Economic statistics: UK July PSSP, Bank of France money market tender, BISF discount bill auction, US Treasury auction of short-term t-bills.

## TOMORROW

Interims: BNP Group, Bodycode International, Nicholls, Pilkington, Pilkington Metal, Riva, Somers, Wragg, Weir Group, Final: Armitage Brothers. Economic statistics: UK July retail sales, UK July provisional M4, final MO money supply, UK BIS discount bill auction, UK BSA and July building society lending, US trade deficit.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: CFS Group, T Clarke, Group Trust, Halifax, Final: None scheduled. Economic statistics: UK July provisional GDP, UK August CBI industrial trends survey, UK CBI quarterly economic forecasts.

## THURSDAY

Interims: TF & JH Braums (Holdings), Final: None scheduled. Economic statistics: UK July motor vehicle production.

## TOURIST RATES

	Banks	Banks
Australia \$	2.57	2.10
Austria Sch	21.80	19.94
Belgium Fr	88.71	89.75
Canada \$	2.820	2.172
Denmark Kr	0.605	0.575
Denmark Kr	11.74	10.85
Finland Mkr	9.33	8.85
France Fr	10.31	9.85
Germany Dm	1.03	2.85
Greece Dr	485	448
Hong Kong \$	13.88	12.08
Iceland Kr	1.57	1.07
Ireland P	1.15	1.08
Israel Sh	5.97	5.32
Italy Lira	10.99	10.25
Japan Yen	204.03	188.50
Malta	0.573	0.614
Netherlands Gld	3.488	3.184
New Zealand \$	2.17	2.08
Norway Kr	12.78	11.85
Portugal Esc	309.58	287.50
SAfrica Rd	8.26	7.50
Spain Pes	258.00	240.00
Sweden Kr	13.61	12.81
Switzerland Fr	2.87	2.58
Turkey Lira	272.00	259.00
USA \$	1.716	1.716

Rates for small denomination bank notes only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

## COMPANIES

CLARE STEWART

## Halifax has that little Xtra cash



Mike Blackburn has to decide what to do with the Halifax's £3.5 billion surplus capital

**HALIFAX:** Completing the expanded interim bank reporting season on Thursday, the Halifax, led by Mike Blackburn, is unlikely to give much away other than bare figures. The recently converted building society will break with its rivals by not paying a maiden interim dividend. James Johnson, bank analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing (CLL), has forecast pre-tax profits of £75.5 million with exceptional conversion and disposal costs of £8.2 million against interim of £64.9 million last time. Mr Johnson predicts that underlying operating profits will increase 3.5 per cent to £830 million, with earnings per share of 20.6p.

What will chiefly pre-occupy analysts and millions of shareholders, however, is what the Halifax intends to do with its £3.5 billion surplus capital. It has indicated that some of the money will be used for acquisitions, while a further portion will be set aside for possible future distributions.

The method that might be used for distributing the money to shareholders will prompt serious discussion between the bank and its advisers. The professional fund managers will want a share buyback, while millions of private investors are more likely to prefer a special dividend payout.

Either way the Halifax will have to make some tough decisions within the near future. Potential acquisition targets are pricey at present and this newcomer to the banking sector will have to decide in which areas it most needs to boost its overall ambition of being the leading provider of personal financial services in the UK.

**ARGOS:** the catalogue retailer, will have to work hard to impress when unveiling interim figures today. Its golden reputation among retailers has been left a little tarnished after two profit warnings this year and its shares have been knocked sharply off course. It may say that first-half results would be hit by one-off costs, higher interest charges, and slower trading in key areas, such as electrical goods. Analysts at NatWest Securities

expect pre-tax profits to fall 14 per cent to £27.5 million, with earnings down 4 per cent to 6.7p. A dividend is pencilled in at 5.8p, a rise of 9 per cent.

The range of forecasts are expecting pre-tax profits of £31 million for the half year, while full-year predictions currently stand at £153 million pre-tax.

Chrisma remains the group's key trading season, and second-half performance should be helped by lower costs. At the interim stage the market will be looking for more detail on how underlying trading is holding up and how expansion

plans are progressing. Another area of concern is the impact of recently announced changes on recommended retail prices for certain categories of electrical goods.

**TAYLOR NELSON AGB:** The only quoted market research company reports half-year results today. Peter Hunt, its house broker, is forecasting pre-tax profits of just over £5 million, compared with £4 million in 1996. A dividend of 1.5p is expected, with earnings around 1.5p per share. Last year the group saw

pre-tax profits hit by losses at MRM, a door-to-door distribution subsidiary, which has since been sold, although there may still be some associated costs shown in the first-half figures.

Last year the star performer

was the media division, which does reader research for newspapers. Peter Jones, analyst at Peet Hunt, said he expected to see that business and the other core consumer and healthcare divisions performing strongly.

**STOVES:** The cooker maker is expected to report year-end pre-

tax profits of £5.1 million, up from £4.28 million. The forecasts follow Stoves' own figures, released last month, showing that pre-tax profits for the year to May were ahead by 20 per cent while sales were up 27 per cent to about £90 million. In spite of the increases, sales in the last quarter, the company said, were disrupted by the effect on consumer confidence in the run-up to the general election. The market during this period was 10 per cent below expectations.

Fuller performance details should shed more light on Stoves' plans for overseas growth, with the European market identified for particular attention. Current trading figures will also show to what degree Stoves has benefited from increased spending on household fixtures and fittings prompted by the building society windfall payouts.

Analysts are looking for a dividend rise of about 15.4 per cent to 6p with earnings increasing to 15.4p, up 8.5 per cent.

**RENTOKIL INITIAL:** Half-year figures on Wednesday from the pest control to tropical plants group are expected to show solid growth across most of its core activities. The figures will also be flavoured by the BET acquisition and its earnings-enhancing impact.

The impact of the BET businesses means that Rentokil will not find it difficult to bear its well-flagged commitment to 20 per cent annual earnings growth, but there will be close examination of underlying growth to get a better idea of how well the group is performing.

Analysts at NatWest forecast first-half pre-tax profits will rise 47 per cent to £198 million, with earnings ahead by 21 per cent to 20.7p. The dividend is set to rise 20 per cent to 9.0p.

Paul Morland, an analyst, is expecting to see a strong performance from the hygiene and cleaning division. Pest control will be held back by "stagnant" markets and increased competition, "while in the plant and distribution services, the City Link parcels business is likely to show good growth.

## UK progress prey to Buba

For the second successive week the nervous state of financial markets will dominate the economic agenda after Friday's sharp falls in equity markets. Germany's Bundesbank has talked up the mark successfully, using interviews hinting at possible measures. The focus will be on its council meeting on Thursday to see if anything happens.

A flexible repo rate is possible, allowing the market to edge up interest rates. But the Bundesbank may feel it is meeting its aims without risks to domestic recovery. Statistics due this week affecting the decision include growth of M3 money supply. Forecasts collated by Standard & Poor's MMS expect growth of 6.3 per cent above the 1996 fourth-quarter base.

New York will wait on the deliberations of the Federal Reserve's open market committee, starting on Tuesday. Any substantive rate move would cause surprise.

In the UK, it is a busy week for statistics. On Monday, forecasters polled by Standard & Poor's expect a public sector debt repayment of £800 million in July. On Wednesday, the continuing consumer boom comes under scrutiny. Retail sales are thought to have risen 0.4 per cent in July, making 5.9 per cent over 12 months, up from 5.3 per cent in June. M4, the wide measure of money supply, is forecast to stay above range, up 0.7 per cent in July, edging the annual rate up a notch to 11.7 per cent. On the median forecast, M4 lending rose from £5.5 to £6 billion.

On Thursday, the CBI's industrial trends survey may show a less rosy view, focusing on the impact of sterling's strength on manufacturers. This could affect sentiment. The markets will also pay attention to provisional quarterly figures for gross domestic product. The median forecast would have second-quarter GDP up another strong 0.9 per cent, making an annual 3.4 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Investor hold on to windfall paymen

M4

New era economics is all the rage. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, repeatedly believes that the US is now capable of fast growth, low unemployment and low inflation. Last week's UK data showing unemployment falling another 50,000 in July, taking the rate to 5.5 per cent, while wage inflation remained steady, was eerily similar to recent US experience.

Stripping out the usual distorting factors, price inflation was also quiescent; although the media has over the thoroughly misleading rise in the all-items rate to 3.3 per cent showed why this measure deserves the name "headline". Even the dour old Bank of England wondered whether, perhaps, the rate of unemployment necessary to stop inflation from rising (the so-called natural rate) was lower than had previously been supposed.

But on hearing the cry that it is different this time, anyone who lived through the British economic experience of the past 20 years must recall the late 1980s. Ten years ago, the Lawson boom was approaching its crescendo. It was supposedly different then, but before too long it was shown to be depressingly the same—surging inflation, sky-high interest rates, falling output and rising unemployment. In the late 1980s, the idea that Britain had transformed her economic performance came and went, like a thief in the night. So why should it be different this time?

## This time it really will be different



ROGER  
BOOTLE

The Lawson boom is a bad standard of comparison. It was particularly ill-balanced in being heavily biased towards London and the South East and closely bound up with the property market. This imbalance heightened the inflationary response to the expansion of demand.

Moreover, it was heavily credit-financed. The proportion of personal incomes devoted to savings (net of personal borrowing) fell from 10.7 per cent in 1985 to 6.2 per cent in 1988. By contrast, in the current expansion, consumers are cutting their coat according to their cloth. The savings ratio has fallen only slightly and is still above 10 per cent.

Furthermore, the late 1980s expansion was accompanied by a steadily worsening trade deficit. So the pressure of demand was greater than the bare figures for domestic output suggested and, while it lasted, the flood of imports allowed the level of personal consumption, and hence feelings of prosperity, to run ahead of economic reality.

More importantly, since the late 1980s the economy has undergone dramatic change, starting with the recession of 1990-92, which changed attitudes profoundly. This was not as serious

nationally as the 1979-81 recession but in some ways it had more effect. While manufacturing industry in the Midlands and North was hit heavily in 1979-81, many businesses in the South barely knew the economy was in recession. But 1990-92 hit them particularly hard, the first really serious recession in the South since before 1939.

Equally, the housing market experience was quite different. In the 1979-81 recession, real house prices fell but the rate of inflation was so high that,

at worst, in money terms house prices remained static. In 1990-92, house prices fell with a vengeance for the first time since before the war, giving rise to the phenomenon of negative equity.

Yet the changes go much deeper than the mere effects of recession. It is only a decade since the Lawson boom, but the changes that have occurred during that time amount to an economic revolution. On the international scene they include the collapse of communism, the worldwide acceptance of the market economy and the emergence of China as a major trading power. That same ten years have seen the widespread dissemination of micro-processor and communication technology, which have made possible the globalisation of many areas of business.

On the domestic front so many startling changes we now take for granted took place during this period. By the end of 1987 it was less than three years since the defeat of the miners' strike, which had threatened to bring down the Government. The weakening of union power had many more stages still to run. Now there are very few strikes by miners or anybody else. Indeed, there are precious few miners.

By 1987, privatisation had already been shown to work but the full scale of the efficiency improvements was yet to be revealed, and the electricity, water and railway industries were yet to pass into private hands. It was only in the 1988 Budget that the top rate of income tax was cut from 60 to 40 per cent. The wholesale downsizing and restructuring of British companies and the marketisation of British economic life lay in the future. In 1987-88 leading British banks were locked in a competition over size not over profit.

In other words, the leading factors which it is alleged have transformed economic performance have only come into play in the last ten years. These changes have produced the differences in behaviour that mark out the current economic conjuncture as so promising. Wages are not pushed up, even when unemployment falls to 5.5 per cent. Consumers are canny and price-sensitive — even when spending their building society windfalls. Companies are wary of pushing their prices up, even in the midst of a consumer boom.

New eras do not begin on a certain day but rather emerge from an accumulation of changes. If the British economy, like the American, is now operating on new ground rules, then although the process of change began in 1979, historians will surely date the start of the new era within the last ten years. That is why we are entitled to think that this time it will be different.

## Investors hold on to windfall payments

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of investors are set to hold on to more than £20 billion of the £30 billion of windfall shares they received from building society风倒。

aside for holidays and travel. Major electrical items for the home were also high on the priority list, accounting for some £700 million.

The survey also found that nearly 77 per cent of the windfall shares would be saved or used to repay existing debt.

Of those who intend to save all or most of their windfalls, three fifths said they will hold their shares in their own name while 16 per cent will use the tax-free shelter of a personal equity plan (Pep) or invest the sale proceeds in a Pep, unit trust or other stock market vehicle. A further 17 per cent said they will sell their shares and hold the proceeds on deposit with a bank or building society.

The survey found that, of the £30 billion handed to customers of the Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich, Norwich Union, the insurer, and with Northern Rock still to come, only £8.2 billion would be spent.

City analysts and economists had predicted that interest rates would have to rise quite significantly if the windfall spending spree materialised.

Peter Warburton, economic adviser at Robert Fleming, said: "The surge in consumer confidence, which has occurred during the past six months as these windfall payments have been eagerly awaited, is therefore likely to be reversed quite rapidly this autumn."

Mr Warburton added: "The comparison with 1988, when real wages rose strongly and homeowners borrowed to excess, is poorly made. On the basis of the survey evidence, there is no case for hitting the consumer with further rate increases."

Flemings calculated that of the £8.2 billion earmarked for spending £2.1 billion will be spent on home improvements, furnishings and DIY with the same sum again being set



Richard Purdey, Merrydown chairman, may use the annual meeting to announce the departure of another director

## Merrydown boss likely to stay on

BY DOMINIC WALSH

RICHARD PURDEY, chairman of Merrydown, the troubled cider and alcopops maker, is unlikely to stand down at the company's annual meeting today but may announce the departure of another director, industry sources said last night.

Mr Purdey has come under pressure in recent months in the wake of a slump in sales of the company's Two Dogs alcoholic lemonade. Last month he unveiled a drop in pre-tax profits for the year from £2.03 million to just £821,000 after Two Dogs failed to come to terms with competitors.

Merrydown has handed dis-

tribution of Two Dogs to Scottish & Newcastle and Mr Purdey has promised to streamline the board as part of a £1.5 million cost-cutting exercise. At the time of the results he refused to guarantee even his own job and analysts had expected him to announce at the annual meeting that he was taking early retirement.

Industry experts now say he is keen to see through the changes and return the company to a more stable position before standing aside.

Shortly after the results, Alan Rutherford, sales and marketing director, became the first boardroom casualty.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET												
1997	High	Low	Mid cap	1997	High	Low	Mid cap	1997	High	Low	Mid cap	
Mon.	Mon.	Mon.	million	Mon.	Mon.	Mon.	million	Mon.	Mon.	Mon.	million	
1/7	11.98 AFA Systems	11.98	11.98	10.2	350	140	350	150	+ 10	11.7	220	190
2/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	191	114	191	120	+ 12	19	300	270
3/7	7.13 Albion Retail	7.13	7.13	7.13	245	202	177	177	+ 12	53	270	250
4/7	27.35 Alcove Retail	27.35	27.35	27.35	6.51	6.51	6.51	20.4	+ 24	20.4	54.10	54.10
5/7	8.75 Alcosure Plc	8.75	8.75	8.75	1.77	1.77	1.77	1.77	+ 1	1.77	33	33
6/7	20.30 AIA Group	20.30	20.30	20.30	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	+ 1	1.12	11	11
7/7	7.97 Alcon Gold	7.97	7.97	7.97	4.98	4.98	4.98	4.98	+ 1	4.98	12.1	12.1
8/7	33.40 Alcove & Bt	33.40	33.40	33.40	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	+ 1	2.95	12.1	12.1
9/7	1.25 Alcove Retail	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	1.25	1.25
10/7	2.93 Anglo-Walsh	2.93	2.93	2.93	5.17	5.17	5.17	5.17	+ 1	5.17	12.55	12.55
11/7	28.20 AIA Group	28.20	28.20	28.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
12/7	5.20 AIA Group	5.20	5.20	5.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
13/7	20.60 AIA Group	20.60	20.60	20.60	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
14/7	10.75 AIA Group	10.75	10.75	10.75	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
15/7	34.20 AIA Group	34.20	34.20	34.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
16/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
17/7	12.20 AIA Group	12.20	12.20	12.20	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
18/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
19/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
20/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
21/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
22/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
23/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
24/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
25/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
26/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
27/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
28/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
29/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
30/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	+ 1	1.25	12.55	12.55
31/7	1.25 AIA Group	1.25	1.25</									



# Departing detectives leave us in doldrums

They began together and, eight weeks later, Pie in the Sky (BBC1) and Wyndiffe (TV) finished together. The question is, how dare they? Finish with two weeks of August still to go, that is. Two weeks that will see one of the weakest summer of programming I can recall explore new depths of regurgitation. Coming up this week, and I kid you not, is a compilation of the best bits from onboard camcorders of police cars, chasing Manchester joy-riders. As of today — and with the notable exception of Tim Firth's wonderful *Preston Panto* — there is now officially nothing to watch.

As of yesterday, however, it was a different matter, with both Pie in the Sky and Wyndiffe signing off with impressively strong episodes. For the former, Andrew Payne's nicely observed script stacked of an affectionate but final farewell to his culinary copper, Henry Crabb. For the latter, well, Arthur Crabb. For the latter, well, Arthur

McKenzie's script toyed with us — the ever-weary Wyndiffe was having trouble with failing eyesight and troublesome teenage offspring — before the deputy chief constable's career assessment put us out of our misery.

Wyndiffe had no plans to retire, we were told, and the DCC made "no recommendation as to any career move" in the foreseeable future. In other words, Wyndiffe is going nowhere, which conveniently leaves him free to return to our screens every summer until either Jack Shepherd or we get sick of it. That is good news.

The bad, but understandable news is that Payne already seems to have had enough of Crabb. Last night the cooking detective cleared his desk — or, to be accurate, removed his collapsible codpiece — and, silver salt cellar from his top drawer — and, resigned from the police force. Crabb had finally had enough of

being pushed around by Freddy Fisher; largely, I suspect, because Payne has had enough of writing scripts that somehow have to combine police work and *haute cuisine*. But if this was the last one, at least it was a goodie that involved all three senior members of the cast: Richard Griffiths as Crabb, Maggie Steed as Margaret and, deservedly to the fore last night, Malcolm Sinclair as the ghastly Fisher.

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There are six of these pro-

grammes and I can't imagine why — if this first one is indicative of the quality to come — they weren't shown in the six days up to and including Thursday's anniversary. With Lahore station as his architectural starting point, Dalrymple managed to cram a huge amount of history into half-an-hour, while somehow remaining both enter-

taining and thought-provoking.

Later, I discovered I don't. Enthused by Dalrymple's history lesson, I thought I'd watch *Train to Pakistan*, the feature-length drama that kicked off the late-night section of the *Indian Summer* season. In my prejudiced, post-colonial mind's eye, I knew exactly what this would look like — a beautifully shot mixture of *Gandhi, Heat and Dust* and *Jewel in the Crown*. The reality, however, was an Asian film made for Asian audiences and not for the likes of me. I therefore hold my fire.

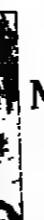
There are six of these programmes and I can't imagine why — if this first one is indicative of the quality to come — they weren't shown in the six days up to and including Thursday's anniversary. With Lahore station as his architectural starting point, Dalrymple managed to cram a huge amount of history into half-an-hour, while somehow remaining both enter-

taining and thought-provoking.

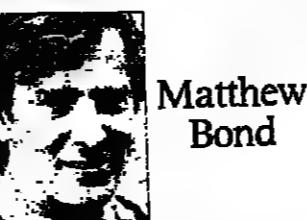
**L**ast night was a magnificent feat of civil engineering, but it was also the scene of appalling massacres in the bloody run-up to partition. In the same way, it was the British-built railway system that had brought about the peaceful unification of India that, a century later, became "the instrument that brought about its final eccentricity and narration into personal essay, all became well. Very, very well, in fact.

Elsewhere, the programming to

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond



He did, but it was all too brief. Which is why Crabb packed his corkscrew, why the traditional end-of-series cast lunch took place without Fisher and why I'm nursing a well-spared sense of regret at the prospect of never seeing any of them again. How about a Christmas special? Wyndiffe is having one — although I don't for a moment imagine it will be merry.

Elsewhere, the programming to

mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan continued — which was strange, given that the anniversary itself was on Thursday night. But better later than never, as they say at Channel 4, and in the case of *Stones of the Raj*, quite rightly so.

William Dalrymple's fascinating documentary kicked off an otherwise rather token-looking weekend of programmes apparently scheduled for those having trouble sleeping through hot summer nights. The one mistake made was not getting Dalrymple on screen right at the start. As a result, I spent the first three to four minutes wondering how I was going to get through a film apparently narrated by a man with an annoyingly sibilant "s".

But once Dalrymple had appeared in person, to turn impediment in

to eccentricity and narration into personal essay, all became well. Very, very well, in fact.

Tippe through the minefield of religious divides and just about

BBC1

8.00am *Business Breakfast* (37895)  
7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (7) (88575)  
8.00 *Breakfast News Extra* (7) (519128)  
9.20 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (7) (5170418)  
9.50 *Esther: Gold-diggers* (7) (506505)  
10.20 *Put It to the Test* (Experiments with Carol Vorderman) (503376)  
10.45 *Carrier's Caribbean* (7) (208470)  
11.00 *News* (7) and weather (2865321)  
11.05 *Due South* (7) (518132)  
11.50 *Good Neighbours* (623895)  
12.00 *News, Regional News and weather* (443421)  
12.05 *Wipeout* (7) (883226)  
12.35 *Neighbours* (7) (1925395)  
1.00 *News* (7) and weather (533525)  
1.30 *Regional News* (7) and weather (88881012)  
1.40 *Perry Mason: The Case of the Fatal Fashion* (1991) with Raymond Burr. **EM** Mason finds himself acting as both defence counsel and prosecution witness (7) (4664876)

3.10 *Quinton* (7) (1810944)  
4.00 *Popeyes* (2994499). 4.10 *Baroness* (7) (2311673). 4.14 *Little Mouse on the Prairie* (7) (5721832). 4.25 *Carissa Explains It All* (7) (8941590). 5.00 *Newsround* (7) (2506741). 5.10 *Elder* (7) (3447654)

5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (8477788)  
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**COMPANIES 40**  
 The Halifax  
 and that  
 little Xtra cash

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

# BUSINESS

MONDAY AUGUST 18 1997

**BOOM BUST 41**

 Roger Bootle  
 on why this  
 time is different


## National Grid ready to float Energis before end of the year

By ERIC REGULY

ENERGIS, the telecommunications arm of the National Grid, will probably be floated before the end of the year unless the stock market crack, David Jones, the Grid's chief executive, said yesterday.

Mr Jones, an Energis director, said the Grid would sell no more than 49 per cent of Energis because it was confident of the business's long-term prospects and did

not want to lose control. He said: "The only problem we have with Energis is that its value is not reflected in the Grid's share price." He emphasised, however, that the Grid board had not yet decided whether to proceed with flotation and that other scenarios, although less likely, were not being ruled out. A demerger was one.

Analysts estimated that a flotation would value Energis at between £800 million and £1.2 billion, a figure that Mr

Jones would neither confirm nor deny. Using a mid-range valuation, flotation could raise almost £500 million for the Grid. Dresden Kleinwort Benson is acting as the Grid's financial adviser.

Energis was launched in early 1993 as a low-cost alternative to the national transmission systems owned by British Telecom and Mercury Communications. No digging was required to build the Energis network: high-capacity fibre

optic cables were simply placed underneath the Grid's electricity pylons.

The Grid has invested about £575 million in Energis, a figure that includes switching technology. The network is considered among the most advanced in the world and has enough capacity for multimedia applications such as video and the Internet.

Energis got off to a slow start, partly because enough national capacity existed

at the time to meet the country's transmission needs and partly because it offered extremely low prices to its first customers, including the BBC. Original forecasts called for profits last year; in fact, it reported an operating loss of £52.4 million on turnover of £97.1 million.

In an effort to reduce financial risk, the Grid tried, but failed, to find a partner for Energis. The telecoms company has since won an international licence and recruited

more customers as demand for so-called broadband capacity increases. Analysts said that Energis already carried more than half of the country's Internet traffic, the fastest growing part of the telecoms market.

Mr Jones said that Energis was on the verge of reporting profits before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation. A new marketing plan is to be unveiled shortly.

## City braced for shares to fall again

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BLUE CHIP shares are likely to open a further 1 per cent lower in London this morning as market-makers cut prices of leading stocks in the hope of enticing buyers before New York opens.

Their success, along with investors' appetite for price discounts in European and American markets, will determine whether the long global bull market can continue, or will end with a sharp reversal.

Sharp falls are likely in Paris, Milan and some other continental markets that were closed on Friday. But Hong Kong, which saw a big fall then, is closed today.

The FTSE 100 index fell 2.8 per cent on Friday, ending at its lowest for the day. But losses in New York doubled after London had closed and the Dow Jones industrial average eventually lost 3.1 per cent, making a two-week drop of 6.1 per cent.

Wall Street stocks have dipped sharply at the end of two successive weeks, underlining the volatility of financial markets in thin August trading. On Friday, in both London and New York, index options also expired, withdrawing technical support.

Volatile share prices this month have taken their cue from the foreign exchanges, where the dollar and sterling first surged against the mark

and then retreated in thin speculative trading. Currency waves affected bonds, which in turn drove shares.

On Friday, however, there were signs of a more basic change of sentiment to US equities. Anxious equity investors switched to bonds, leaving their prices higher on the day. Last week, more than \$800 million is also reported to have flowed out of mutual funds, the driving force behind the share boom.

American shares have risen 22 per cent since mid-March, when the Federal Reserve Board last raised short-term interest rates. Traders are now looking more nervously to this week's meeting of the Fed's rate-setting open market com-

mittee, which begins tomorrow. No rise in rates is likely, however, after several statistics confirming that inflation and wage growth remain low.

US shares have historically high ratings, selling at an average 25 times earnings and yielding 1.5 per cent dividends. Shares in the FTSE 100 sell at an average 18 times earnings and yield 3.4 per cent.

Bears of Wall Street, who include nearly all UK fund managers, argue that interest rates have not gone up because the economy and profits growth are slackening. Coca-Cola and Gillette disappointed in the past six trading days.

In the UK too, blue chips have been buoyed by international buying. The FTSE 100 index of the biggest companies is up 18 per cent this year, even though the strength of sterling has shrunk forecasts of profit growth and short-term interest rates have gone up.

Most other UK shares have scarcely risen at all this year however. The Bank of England also made clear last week that it did not intend to change interest rates again before November, giving further support to the share market.

London will be undermined if the mark surges back against sterling. The Bundesbank, which has expressed anxiety over the mark, meets on Thursday and could allow it its market interest rate to rise. The mark's recovery makes this less likely.

Anton Mosimann has been signed up by PPP Healthcare to help to train chefs in its hospital network and to de-

velop menus for patients who have had surgery.

Mr Mosimann, a London-based Swiss-German, has made his "cuisine naturelle" famous through TV series, cookery books, and his own restaurants and dining club.

His technique relies heavily on fruit and vegetables and is light on butter, cream and

other fats. A typical menu for patients will be Chinese egg

noodles with asparagus and mange-tout followed by grilled sea bass oriental with market vegetables and then bananas baked in foil with vanilla and citrus sauce.

The company declined to say how much Mr Mosimann would be paid for his work.

## PPP cooks up Mosimann deal

A PRIVATE health insurer is hoping to gain an edge in the highly competitive market by offering post-operative *haut cuisine* from one of Britain's top chefs (Sarah Cunningham writes).

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over 12 months and sixty-seventh in the first half of 1997.

Schroders was fifty-sixth in

the first six months of 1997.

The underperformance is

starting to have an effect on

five-year performance. Both

Mercury and Schroders have

now slipped out of the top

dozen. PDM languishes at 50

out of 61, Garfords at 58.

Smaller companies are

putting pressure on the actuaries

who advise pension fund

trustees on their choice of

manager. They want to end

what they see as a complacent

reliance on the big houses and

their historic records.

These consultants now

have egg on their faces," said a

member of one management

house, that is intensifying its

lobbying efforts. "They have

been saying at conferences

and dinners that they are

aware they have to find the

new contenders."

The latest survey of pension

fund growth revealed a dismal

showing in the past year by

Mercury, Schroders, PDM and Gar-

more—all giants of the sector.

Less well-known fund managers

are now intensifying

efforts to persuade the adver-

saries to pension funds that

they have the right approach

to investment that will

make them long-term win-

ners.

The survey, by Combined

Actuarial Performance Services

(Caps), examined the per-

formance of mixed-with-property

funds. These are pooled

vehicles for pension schemes

that are not large enough to

have their own individual

fund. Although often dwarfed

in size by client-specific or

united funds, particularly in

investment houses such as

Mercury, mixed-with-property

funds are often run by star

managers because their per-

formance is easy to follow, mak-

ing them a shop window for

prospective clients.

Mercury's \$4 billion bid

was placed sixty-eighth out of

70 in the year to June 30, with

a growth rate of just 7.2 per

cent. Garfords' main fund

was sixty-second over the year

and sixty-sixth in the first half

of 1997. PDM, which has

long taken a pessimistic stance

on UK equities, was fifty-sixth

over 12 months and sixty-

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# Young strike gold in Silicon Valley

Every day last year 62 millionaires were created as the valley's high-tech firms went public, writes Ian Brodie

SIXTY-TWO millionaires were made every day last year in Silicon Valley, the land of the modern California Gold Rush. A survey shows that these astonishing riches were the result of one high-tech company going public on average every five days, rais-

ing billions and billions of dollars.

Scores of secretaries, receptionists, office managers and other support workers cashed in on the seemingly boundless prosperity, along with electronic wizards, software geniuses, and other young entrepreneurs who swarmed into the valley.

There are now 7,000 high-tech firms crammed into the 50-mile corridor running south from San Francisco. The market value of publicly held companies in and around the valley has reached \$450 billion (\$200 billion), close to that of the entire French stock market.

These statistics come from the American magazine *Business Week* in a special issue marking the 40th anniversary of Silicon Valley's debut. The boom is described as the largest single creation of

wealth and economic activity ever seen in such a short period of time.

The quest began in 1957 when the so-called Traitorous Eight walked out of laboratories run by William Shockley, the British-born inventor of the transistor. They founded Fairchild Semiconductor, the first company to work exclusively in silicon.

As *Business Week* puts it, in Silicon Valley millionaires are as typical as a sunny day. Risks are great, but the rewards can be amazing. In 1993, Heather Beach started as a receptionist for Siebel Systems Inc, makers of sales information software. One of five employees, she was the dogsbody doing everything from answering phones to ordering office supplies.

Then 25, she reckoned she had a chance of becoming a millionaire by 30. Four years later she has surpassed her wildest expectations. She did so by choosing to take some of her salary in equity on top of the stock options she was granted. Siebel went public in June last year at \$17 a share and more than quadrupled by December. For every dollar

Wimblad: puts success down to networking

## Arafat makes threat to drop peace accords

FROM ROSS DUNN  
IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT has threatened for the first time to abandon the peace accords with Israel as the Palestinian Authority launches a boycott of Israeli products.

The moves are in protest against Israeli sanctions imposed on the Palestinians after a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, more than two weeks ago. The PLO leader said he was still committed to peace, but if necessary, the Palestinians were ready to give up everything achieved since the peace accords were signed in 1993 and return to the struggles of the past.

"We are willing to give it all out and start anew," he said in an address to academics and journalists in Nablus. Last night Israeli and Palestinian officials were due to meet in Ramallah, also in the West Bank, in the presence of CIA representatives. The talks were part of a trilateral framework established during the recent visit to the Middle East by Dennis Ross, the US special envoy.

Khaled Islam, Mr Arafat's economic adviser, said that a plan had been developed grad-

ually to close the Palestinian market to Israeli products. He said the Israelis could not expect to sell their goods to Palestinians at the same time as they were withholding tax revenue from the Palestinian Authority. Mr Islam said that the boycott would be selective and gradual, starting with a ban on the purchase of non-essential goods.

Mr Arafat said that Israel's economic sanctions, particularly the withholding of \$45 million in taxes and customs duties, were meant to "humiliate" the Palestinian people, starve the Palestinian people and make them kneel". But the tactic would not work. "The Palestinian people will not kneel to anyone but God," he said.

Mr Arafat said that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, should learn the true nature of the Palestinian people, adding that his followers would not bow to Israeli pressure to arrest known Islamic extremists in the Palestinian self-rule areas. "We reject the Israeli demands that we act against our brethren and do not intend to accept dictates from anyone," he said.

Mr Arafat then ridiculed Israel, referring to the Jewish

police commander, described the murder of Shmuel Baruch, the taxi driver, as criminal and a terrorist act.

Betty Ben-Baruch, the driver's wife, said: "If they just wanted his money, they would have let him live." A few hours before

## Technology Dr Enterprise St

Sign of the times: street directions reflect the business culture that rules the valley

Ms Beach took in shares instead of cash, she earned at least \$40.

She has celebrated with a pair of rollerblades and a new bed, but like a surprising number of the valley's newly minted young millionaires she is too busy for the wealth to change her life. Many invest in retirement accounts, but later take some to buy a home.

In the smartest neighbourhoods, "starter" houses go for \$300,000. Anything more comfortable is in the \$2 million range. The ultra-rich buy undeveloped property to park their helicop-

ters. "Keeping up with the neighbours in Silicon Valley is weird," said one chief executive. "It's not 'Do your kids go to a private school?' but 'Do they have a private jet?'

Eleven new firms start up each week and many fail. But every would-be entrepreneur is driven by the legend of Apple, started in a Silicon Valley 20 years ago by Steven Jobs and Stephen Wozniak with \$1,300.

Silicon Valley's vitality and stock-option culture might be the quintessence of the American dream, but the wealth does not trickle down. Thous-

ands of caretakers, postmen and other low-income workers have to go up to 90 miles away to find affordable housing. There are chief executives earning \$10,000 a day, but their office cleaners get \$8 an hour.

Much of the valley's energy is driven by venture capitalists, people like Ann Winblad, who has her own firm and is one of the few to invest only in software. She has spotted several winners and attributes her success to "megaworking" that takes her to industry events four evenings a week. Venture capitalists are

Inc. Some 50,000 jobs were created last year while wages grew at five per cent, five times the national average.

"There's an elixir that you breathe as you come to this part of the world," said Christos Consalos, chief executive of an online brokerage group which went public last summer, raising \$16 million. "This is Mecca," he said.

The survey concludes that Silicon Valley is perhaps the most unusual business environment on the planet. "It is daredevil business, where risk-taking is the norm and the penalty is not for failure, but for not trying," it says.



RON SCHWARTZ/REUTERS



Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Prime Minister, tries to relax with his wife, Sara, and son, Avner, on a Mediterranean beach at Caesarea. However, relaxation perhaps is not particularly easy for a family that is always surrounded by security men

police commander, described the murder of Shmuel Baruch, the taxi driver, as criminal and a terrorist act. Betty Ben-Baruch, the driver's wife, said: "If they just wanted his money, they would have let him live."

Yossi Sidbon, the Israeli police commander, described the murder of Shmuel Baruch, the taxi driver, as criminal and a terrorist act. Betty Ben-Baruch, the driver's wife, said: "If they just wanted his money, they would have let him live."

A few hours before

the funeral yesterday, she said

that in recent years her husband had grown more sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

to kill again," she told Israel radio.

David Bar-Ilan, a senior

adviser to Mr Netanyahu,

said the arrest of the killers

showed that the Palestinian Authority was capable of

quick action "when it wants

to", adding: "This is an example of what we expect the authority to do in the future in all security cases."

Despite the public hostility

between Israel and the Palestinians, the two sides were

showing some signs of prag-

matism behind the scenes.

Last night's planned meeting in Ramallah was a direct product of Mr Ross's five-day visit to the region last week in an attempt to promote security co-operation between the two sides.

## Drive for reform begins to falter

FROM RICHARD BRETON  
IN MOSCOW

ONLY three months after President Yeltsin launched a campaign to tackle the age-old scourge of corruption in Russia, the initiative to clean up government appears, like so many other efforts before it, to be going nowhere.

In May, this year the Kremlin leader, under the influence of Boris Nemtsov, his young and energetic Deputy Prime

## Billions in loans used as weapon to defeat Third World's graft

BY IAN BRODIE

THE World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are clamping down on releasing money to combat corruption in Russia.

The crackdown reflects their determination, too long delayed, to withhold loans from countries where corruption and bribery are so pervasive that they act as a drag on economic development.

The World Bank has suspended operations in several countries on the ground that its money cannot reach ordinary people because of an institutional maze of fraud and bribery. The targeted nations include Nigeria, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Early this month the IMF sent the Kenyan shilling and Nairobi stock market into a tailspin when it suspended a loan of \$220 million (£138 million) to Kenya after President Moi failed to create a new anti-corruption authority demanded by the fund. Kenya had also refused to reinstate Samuel Chebii, who had been dismissed as Commissioner for Customs and Excise. His reputation for fighting graft had apparently incurred the Government's displeasure.

The World Bank has recently delayed smaller loans to Kenya over concerns about persistent corruption in the regime of Mr Moi who has been in power since 1978. The IMF had been irritated with Kenya before over what

officials describe as a clearly fraudulent diversion of its export incentive funds to a business selling gold and diamonds, neither of which Kenya produces.

Last year the IMF halted a \$120 million loan to Cambodia for six months after promised government revenues from logging concessions mysteriously failed to materialise.

The campaign to stamp out corruption began in earnest at last September's meeting of the world's finance ministers when James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, and Jean-Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, announced that for the first time they would use the leverage of their loans to poorer nations to insist on better governance. At their meeting

in Hong Kong next month the finance ministers will hear that both the institutions are keeping their word.

Two weeks ago the IMF executive board issued guidelines spelling out how it will deal with crooked regimes seeking loans. They were alerted to expect emphatic demands for the elimination of bribery, corruption and fraud in the management of public resources.

M Camdessus promised that the IMF would not return to its main focus of encouraging and advising client countries to expand trade, reduce inflation and undertake market reforms. But increasingly, he said, the IMF finds that enforcing the rule of law and tackling corruption are essential for fostering confidence in the private sector and enabling Third World economies to prosper.

An example of how the IMF interprets its new mandate was this month's successful leaning on Romania to cancel a proposed purchase of 96 Cobra attack helicopters from America at a cost of \$1 billion.

The IMF argued that the deal would upset economic reforms and divert funds from health and education programmes.

The fund said these were greater priorities than costly weapons in the transition to capitalism.

Camdessus: rule of law essential to confidence

## Mandela's men quick to learn old ways

FROM INIGO GILMORE  
IN JOHANNESBURG

IN South Africa the corruption culture has its roots in the institutionalised lawlessness of apartheid. But the African National Congress Government appears quickly to have learnt old tricks and there is increasing alarm about corruption's spread in public life.

A recent survey showed the country is perceived by international business firms as more and more corruption-prone. It placed South Africa 33rd on a table of 52, lower

than some countries in Eastern Europe after communism.

Closely on the heels of that survey earlier this month, the National Party released its "corruption barometer" which claimed that 20 billion rands (about £3 billion) has disappeared through corruption since the ANC took power. Accusing the ANC of attempting to dodge the issue, the party challenged President Mandela to put the prevention of public service corruption in the same category as the prevention of other crimes.

Martinus van Schalkwyk, a party spokesman, said corruption was out of control, leading to the "institutional collapse of the public sector and seriously tarnishing South Africa's image".

INDER Kumar Gujral, the Indian Prime Minister, is taking unprecedented steps to combat corruption, three days after calling for a mass movement against public fraud. He said he was ashamed that India was listed among the world's ten most corrupt countries.

He urged businessmen to give him the names of corrupt politicians and bureaucrats. "I promise support and protection. I will not expose you," he told the Confederation of Indian Industry. "I know you give money to government officials. You tell me this privately, but lose courage in naming the officials."

He has also established a special unit in the Prime Minister's Office to deal with complaints of corruption against Cabinet ministers, MPs and senior bureaucrats.

The situation is worse in Pakistan, the most corrupt country after Nigeria, according to the German-based Transparency International. Politicians owe millions of pounds borrowed from nationalised banks. Few MPs bother to pay electricity or gas bills, and 95 per cent of people pay no taxes. Seventy per cent of government revenues come from the Karachi business community, without which the country would collapse.

The Government has launched an "accountability" process, in which corrupt politicians are to be brought to book, but it has become something of a joke. Di Pietro, still widely admired, is under investigation for alleged misconduct and acceptance of bribes while a magistrate — which he denies.

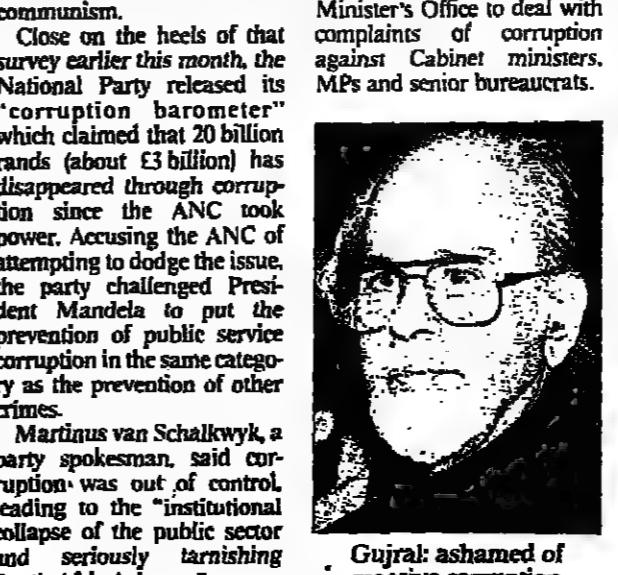
ITALIAN public life has been dogged by corruption since the Second World War, when Christian Democrat-dominated governments held sway almost continuously for four decades, creating a cosy relationship between the administration and big business. The influence of the Mafia has also corrupted politics.

A number of former Prime Ministers are under investigation for alleged corruption, including Giulio Andreotti, Bettino Craxi — who fled to

TUNISIA to avoid a jail sentence — and Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon.

The climate changed in 1992, when Milan-based magistrates led by Antonio Di Pietro launched the "Clean Hands" campaign. Hundreds of officials and businessmen were arrested or questioned, and the investigations exposed a huge and tangled network of bribes, or "tangenti". On the other hand only a handful of politicians and businessmen have served jail sentences and the public has grown weary of what some see as a zealous and partisan campaign.

Moreover, Signor Di Pietro, still widely admired, is under investigation for alleged misconduct and acceptance of bribes while a magistrate — which he denies.



Gujral: ashamed of massive corruption

# A killer of kings and countrymen



He who would be king: a portrait of Prince Arthur, elder brother of Henry VIII, who died aged 15 of *Sudor Anglicus*

BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY

Nigel Hawkes on the doctors who are trying to solve the mystery of the sweating sickness that haunted Tudor England

**T**udor England was haunted by a frightening disease that struck at the height of summer. It carried off the finest in the land, as well as humbler folk. It may even have changed the course of English history, because records show that it killed Prince Arthur, the elder brother of Henry VIII, who would otherwise have become king. The English Sweating Sickness, or *Sudor Anglicus*, was a devastating disease. A man could be healthy one day, short of breath the next, and dead the day after. "Merrie at dinner, dedde at supper" summed it up with only slight exaggeration. The fever did not visit every year, but there were five clear-cut epidemics, in 1485, 1508, 1517, 1528 and 1551, after which it disappeared, never to return. In villages throughout Britain, parish records bear mute witness to the awful consequences of the 1551 epidemic. Dr Alan Dyer, an historian at the University of North Wales in Bangor, has recently catalogued the effects, by consulting 680 parish registers in a *tour de force* of social history. He found abundant evidence that the gravediggers were busy in July and August that year: in Thaxted, Essex, for example, 11 people were buried in just four days in July, while at East Down in Devon there were 12 burials in one August week. These were small places in which the impact of so many deaths must have been enormous.

What caused these epidemics has long been one of the great unsolved mysteries of medicine. There appear to have been no direct parallels abroad, and the symptoms do not fit those of plague, malaria or typhus. But so great was the impact of the sweats that it gave rise to the first monograph devoted to a single disease. John Caius's 1552 dissertation *A boke or counsell against the disease commonly called the sweat, or sweating sickness*. Caius, who was President of the Royal College of Physicians, gave his name to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Many diagnoses have been offered by medical sleuths, but none seemed quite right. But in 1993 an outbreak of a new disease in the southwestern United States provided fresh evidence. At least 17 people died of a mystery illness that began rather like flu but developed swiftly, flooding the victim's lungs with fluids and killing them within 72 hours.

Today's medicine has powers undreamt of by Caius or the unfortunate victims of the sweat. Within months, experts from the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta

had identified the cause of the disease — a hantavirus carried by mice and passed on in their droppings. In truth, the disease was not new. Hantaviruses are named after the Hanhan River in Korea, where a virus infected 3,000 American soldiers during the Korean War. It killed 190 of them by causing kidney damage. The new virus, though of a similar type, had different effects: its target was the lungs.

At Guy's Hospital, London, meanwhile, a medical student called Guy Thwaites was taking an interest in sweating sickness. "I read a small paragraph about it in a book and became fascinated," he says. He consulted Dr Vanya Gant, senior lecturer in infectious diseases at the hospital. "I asked him to find out what the symptoms were and came back and tell

population can rise ten or a hundredfold in a couple of weeks. All the known outbreaks of hantavirus have been rural." The team published its conclusion in the *New England Journal of Medicine* earlier this year.

Dr Dyer, who was operating in ignorance of the Guy's team, had meanwhile reached a different conclusion, just published in *Medical History*. He concluded that the likeliest cause was an arbovirus, a type of virus carried by an animal host but transmitted to human beings by the bite of a creature such as a tick. The rapidity of spread, he says, and the apparent movement of the epidemic from a focus, often in the counties bordering Wales, also suggests direct person-to-person infection.

Dr Gant remains unconvinced. "Arboviruses cause a rash, and there was no rash in sweating sickness," he says. "The combination of breathlessness, the lack of a rash, and the speed of the disease all point to a hantavirus." Dr Dyer's work in tracing the disease through the parish registers is marvelous, but there isn't anything in it that contradicts our conclusion."

In fact, there is evidence from a more recent outbreak of hantavirus disease in southern Argentina that person-to-person spread is possible. A total of 18 people in the towns of El Bolson, Bariloche and Esquel were infected, and 11 died. Studies show that in this outbreak, the disease was spread not only by rodent droppings. Doctors treating the patients also caught it; as did one person who travelled in the same car as a victim. Argentine officials took the car apart, looking for rodent nests, but found none.

This epidemic pattern, it is tempting to suggest, fits both Dr Gant's and Dr Dyer's data extremely well. But the chances are that we shall never be able to prove beyond a doubt that Tudor England was indeed the victim of a hantavirus.

Dr Thwaites — now a junior doctor at Guy's — and Dr Taviner visited the graves of two eminent victims of the disease, Henry Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and his brother Charles, who are buried in the cemetery of St Mary's in Buckden, Cambridgeshire. Would it be possible to extract tissue from the bodies and search for the tell-tale hantaviral RNA? Alas, although DNA has been recovered from human tissue thousands of years old, viral RNA is unstable and it seems unlikely that it could have survived since Tudor times. As in all the best mysteries, a final answer is likely to prove elusive.

Is the Earth being bombarded by snow? □ The molasses grass that repels caterpillars □ When time makes all the difference

FOR 11 years, Lou Frank, a physicist at the University of Iowa, has believed that the Earth is under barrage from snowballs the size of houses, which rain down on us at the rate of 20 a second. The idea has been considered slightly dooky. Others who looked at the same satellite images could not see the evidence that was plain to Dr Frank, or felt sure that the spots he saw as snowballs were merely blemishes in the image.

## Snowballs in space

In the past few months various strands of evidence have turned the argument Dr Frank's way, although many astronomers remain troubled. First, at a conference in May, he produced sharper pictures taken by the Polar satellite, launched in February 1996. The resolution was so much

better that few doubted that the spots were real: some were even caught in successive exposures as they moved across the field of view.

In addition, he presented data showing that the comets left small trails of oxygen behind them as they sped towards the Earth. Water

shed by the comets more than 5,000km away is broken up by sunlight, leaving oxygen atoms.

Closer in, at altitudes of 2,000km to 3,000km, trails of hydroxyl — the other constituent of water — are visible. This is about the height at which Dr Frank believes the comets break up, so the trails fit his theory nicely.

Last weekend, another piece of evidence was notched up by a German satellite launched by the space shuttle *Discovery*. Just hours after it had been released, the satellite detected levels of hydroxyl ten times higher than predicted in the atmosphere 50 miles above the North Pole. Dr Robert Conway of the US Naval Research Laboratory reported.

"One of the implications of the snowball theory is that

water in the upper atmosphere than you would expect," he says.

So is Dr Frank home and dry? Not quite. If snowballs are falling on Earth at this rate, how come they are not also falling on the Moon? If they were, they would stir up dust on the surface, and produce seismic shocks that could be detected. For the late Dr Eugene Shoemaker, tragically killed in a car accident in Australia, this was the

shopstopper. For Dr Brian Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, it is the absence of visible signs as the comets plunge in.

If there are that many impacts, some should be seen. "The numbers just don't jive," he told *The Washington Post*. "We should be seeing quite easily in some of the surveys. We see smaller things from time to time out as far as the Moon." There, for the moment, the matter rests.

WHEN we learn a new skill, it takes just six hours for the brain to store the memory away.

Dr Henry Holcomb, a psychiatrist from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who did the research with Dr Reza Shadmehr, says: "We've shown that it is not enough simply to practise something — you have to allow time for the brain to encode the new skill."

## Don't rush your lessons

They used magnetic resonance imaging to record the areas of the brain that were used in first learning a task, and then performing it. They found that the process of learning involves the brain in moving the skill from temporary storage in the front of the brain to a more permanent

area at the back. The study was published in *Science*.

What this means, Dr Holcomb says, is that people who are learning a skill should allow themselves breaks. "If you were performing a piano piece for the first time and then immediately started practising something else," he told *The New York Times*, "that will cause problems in retention of the initial piece." Better to do something routine, or go to sleep.

BEFORE YOUR CHILDREN  
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SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

## The blades of protection

A SPECIES of grass that emits a scent repellent to butterflies and moths can provide an effective method for protecting nearby cereal crops, a team of scientists from Britain and Kenya has shown. When the cereals were interplanted with molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*) damage caused by caterpillars was considerably reduced.

Not only did the grass discourage the pests, but it also attracted a wasp that kills the caterpillars. In an unprotected crop of maize, Dr John Pickett of the Institute of

Arable Crops Research at Rothamsted, and colleagues, report in *Nature* that 40 per cent of the plants were damaged. When interplanted with molasses grass, fewer than 5 per cent were damaged.

The active ingredient produced by the grass was dimethyl nonatriene, usually produced only when a plant is damaged by pests. Its purpose is to summon predators and parasites to attack the pests.

Dr Pickett believes that interplanting could provide real benefits for subsistence farmers in Africa. As well as protecting their main crop, the grass can be harvested as forage for cattle.

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Clive Stafford Smith and his girlfriend, Emily Bolton, who works at the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Centre, the charity he runs in New Orleans

## The great defender

**O**n an average day, Clive Stafford Smith is to be found fretting over his trial documents in a cheap motel in rural Louisiana. For 14 years he has criss-crossed America, enduring an endless round of courts, harsh judges and seedy motels, to say nothing of soul-destroying visits to the hundreds of clients he has represented on death row.

In that time the British lawyer — once described as a latter-day Galahad in search of an improbable grail, the abolition of capital punishment in America — has become one of the most celebrated crusaders against the death penalty.

But the constant opposition, the meagre salary, and the weight of his responsibility finally appear to have taken their toll. The former public schoolboy, who left his homeland more than 20 years ago, is talking for the first time about life back in the bosom of the Establishment he thought he had deserted.

He is planning to abandon the bleak compounds of Parchman and Angola, the notorious death row jails of Mississippi and Louisiana, for an altogether different constituency: Mr Stafford Smith wants to become an MP in Tony Blair's Labour Party. He has made inquiries and there has been some interest.

The process has been a gradual one but the final decision came on the night of Mississippi and Louisiana, for an altogether different constituency: Mr Stafford Smith wants to become an MP in Tony Blair's Labour Party. He has made inquiries and there has been some interest.

**The death penalty is a microcosm of much bigger problems**

“There was this sudden sense of change, that perhaps I could contribute in some way,” he says. “It had been something I had considered for some time because I seriously believe I could bring something to British politics under a Labour Government.”

At first glance his liberal ideology hardly seems to match that of new Labour's Young Turks.

He says: “It gave me this sense of the overwhelming power of the State and of everyone somehow glorifying in what to me seemed like a pagan ritual. I wanted to change that.”

During the university summers, he visited prisoners on death row in Georgia, becoming close to those who spent 23 hours a day in their cells, their lives merely a long prelude of last-minute appeals.

His mind made up, he gained a scholarship to study law at Columbia University in New York, later returning to the South to take his Bar exams in Louisiana. He started as a state defender on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, where he has remained for ten years.

It was the early 1980s and there were perhaps 1,500 people on death row. Mr Stafford Smith soon achieved notoriety as a defender capable of overturning sentences.

Today, four years after Mr Stafford Smith moved to New Orleans, the liberal appointee of Jimmy Carter has been replaced at the Supreme Court by those of Ronald Reagan and the number of prisoners facing capital punishment has more than doubled. Thirty-nine states, including liberal New York, now have the death penalty.

A clutch of committed fellow lawyers and numerous volunteers — including Emily Bolton, his girlfriend, a former Amnesty International employee — have joined the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Centre, the charity he runs in New Orleans. Its name, chosen to avoid the death threats and firebombs that are the most evident disadvantages of fighting capital punishment among the rednecks of the Deep South, belies a slick operation which has earned the respect of the legal community throughout America.

Fortunately, the overheads are small. He pays himself just \$25,000 (less than £15,000) a year — a month's earnings for many of his contemporaries from Columbia — but is happy in the knowledge that he has rescued more than 200 people from execution.

It is those he has lost, however, who prey most on his mind. Last month Joseph O'Dell was executed by lethal injection in Virginia.

There were also Edward Johnson, a poor black from rural Mississippi convicted of murdering the local white sheriff, and Nicky Ingram, a convicted murderer born in England.

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## Warning: mountains go down as well as up

**Joe Joseph** spots a brochure that tells the awful truth

**T**his is the time of year when many of us throw our swimming trunks and flip-flops into a suitcase, jump on a plane and take off to a remote Mediterranean hideaway — often without giving a second thought to what our wives and children will think of our mysterious fortnight's disappearance.

But the holiday can turn sour if the resort fails to live up to the expectations raised by a tour company's brochure. So one travel firm is now promising to fly holidaymakers home and give them a full refund if, on reaching their hotel or resort, they feel it does not live up to the idyllic snapshots and descriptions in the brochure.

Cuisine another favourite dish is rosti, which, to the untrained eye, seems to be

try not to look like a tourist, especially when handling money. Tourists often stand out in banks as they are the ones without handbags linking them to briefcases.

On the bright side, bank queues are usually short, because there are plenty of banks. Switzerland may be the only country that has more banks than restaurants, probably because the national dish comprises cubes of stale bread dunked in melted cheese (see also under *Cuisine*).

Cuisine another favourite dish is rosti, which, to the untrained eye, seems to be

made of fried potato peelings, whereas the trained eye can see it really is made of fried potato peelings.

While we hope you will never have to visit an infirmary during your stay, we must point out that it was once common for novice skiers to suffer accidents towards the end of the holiday, just as they were feeling confident enough to attempt more adventurous runs. Thanks to huge advances in graphite-ski technology, skiers now often break their legs on the very first day.

The Eiger has been there for millions of years. If no one bothered to climb its North Face until 50 years ago, there must have been a good reason.

Not all Swiss speak French. Many speak a strange-sounding language called Swiss-German, so do not be perturbed if the locals sound as if they are swallowing small pieces of ironmongery when talking.

Crime rates are low but

government officials spend £8 million a year washing the grit before it is sprinkled on the snowy streets, people who are willing to pay taxes to launder road grit are bound to do other odd things as well.

The Swiss want you to find out as little about their country as possible, especially if your grandparents once held a Swiss bank account opened to protect their savings from Nazi hands. Thus it can be hard to find guidebooks locally, so buy one before you go. No, there is no *Rough Guide to Switzerland*.

The logo for Crédit Suisse is a red cross. But beware: there are so many red crosses of one sort or another all over Switzerland that you can stand in a queue for 20 minutes waiting to cash traveller's cheques and the first hint that you are not in a branch of Crédit Suisse but in an infirmary is when they produce a syringe and start rubbing antiseptic on your upper arm.

Don't assume that you are bound to have a serious skiing accident. Statistical analysis by Switzerland's leading computer-aided actuaries show it could just as easily be your wife who breaks her neck.

Someone skiing very fast may not necessarily be an expert skier. He or she may just be incompetent.

If you see large patches of green on the pistes, we will transfer you to a resort at a higher altitude, where snow conditions are better. If you see large patches of sand, you took the wrong plane and are in Swaziland.

If you are stranded on the slopes and walk into a remote farmhouse to seek help, do not be surprised to see a dried boar's penis hanging from the ceiling. The Swiss regard it as a lucky charm against lightning. Not so lucky for the boar, of course, and not so far, initiated by Smalbone in its “chalet kitchen” range.

Mountains are steep and go down as well as up. The Swissrama Ski Company notes: “You have been warned!”



about 30 clients, but says he will leave the US in time to run for a second-term Blair government. He is talking about establishing a civil rights law office in London, a British sister to the crisis assistance centre, which would operate in tandem with any political aspirations.

Meanwhile, he will continue to live in New Orleans with Emily. There is talk — after a failed first marriage and several disastrous relationships — of a future wedding. And the house in the Lower Garden District may be finished in time for the move, a symbolic ending to his mission in the United States.

Copywriters have opted for the second approach in compiling forthcoming winter brochures. That is why the Swissrama Ski Company offers the following information for clients considering its winter packages:

• Few holidays match skiing in the opportunities it provides for combining invigorating alpine scenery with a chance of sustaining a fatal physical injury.

• Do not leave your children alone with apples on their heads.

• Not all Swiss speak French. Many speak a strange-sounding language called Swiss-German, so do not be perturbed if the locals sound as if they are swallowing small pieces of ironmongery when talking.

• Crime rates are low but

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I want to write about plugs, and the differences between plugs. To date, I have not mentioned *Start the Week* nor *The South Bank Show* once in this column. This self-denying ordinance has now been waived by the executive to whom I refer on such delicate matters.

Why bother to court inevitable ripostes by responding to that current vice of fashion which uses the word "plug" to describe dozens of radio and television programmes? Because it is time to make a stand.

Why is a favourable review in a newspaper called a favourable review, while the same thing on radio or television is increasingly called a plug? Why in a newspaper is an amiable profile of a currently exhibiting, publishing, producing or performing artist called a plug while on radio and television it is called a plug?

A review or profile are things of a certain weight which can even aspire to distinction. A plug is a

## One man's profile is another man's plug

common little *arriviste*. Perhaps, sadly, this is still at the heart of our seemingly intransigent hierarchical system may have fled certain traditional territories, but it is alive and squeaking in the culture. There is little doubt that it is thought top dog. Frankly I think so myself sometimes. But this does not mean that all other dogs are damned. And, in the matter of profiling, interviewing and even reviewing artists today, I think that radio and television make contributions often far beyond that of print.

Yet there is something about snobbery that will not be eradicated. I expect it is too useful and even enjoyable a tool to let go of. Of course, for some poor folk it is the only way they can find themselves. There are those who seriously consider it a claim to superior intelligence that they "don't watch

television". One absurdity of that is the word "television", as if it were an undifferentiated monolithic block. Could anyone talk about "print" in a similar fashion and not be thought a fool?

Radio has gained respectability, partly because of the arrival of television. But there is still the basic suspicion that what is new is coarse and what is widely accessible is shallow.

Take a television arts profile — now routinely referred to as "a plug for ...". It is true that TV producers tend to profile artists when a new work has been produced — exactly as newspapers and magazines do. There are commonsense and practical reasons for this. It is often true that, rather more than newspaper and magazine editors do, TV producers tend to devote time to artists they admire. The reason for this is



simple. Television is expensive and slots are few and producers would rather spend time with William Golding, whose work matters to them, than with a hundred others whose work they could happily

mince. But does this admitted bias in selectivity constitute a plug? Certainly it can be a celebration. But I maintain that it can be very much more, and very often.

Take Golding as an example. In the two profiles we did with him on *The South Bank Show*, he collaborated not only in memorable interviews, but in readings and in engaging programme-makers in their critique of his work. His work was also illustrated again in collaboration with him, and I have no doubt that in the future those Golding films will be pulled from the shelf as long as there is an interest in the man — which is not perhaps a claim that can be made with as much certainty about newspaper and magazine profiles.

Incidentally, in the Golding films critics of substance gave their view of his work. We often include critics in the profiles we make and

this is never mentioned by those who criticise the programmes themselves. Just as the wholly non-profile programmes — for example four recent films by under-25-year-olds — receive the barest press of anything we do.

Just as *The South Bank Show* is one of several TV programmes accused of plugging, so *Start the Week* is one of several radio programmes accused of the same. In the case of *Start the Week* the charge is even more puzzling, especially as it co-exists with the perception that it is into the guess on that programme rather too often.

Once again, like their colleagues and rivals in print, the *Start the Week* team tends to choose an author or a commentator when a book or an article has just come out. This gives us all the spin of

contemporaneity. It is clearly the case on *Start the Week* that the authors are regularly challenged not only by myself or the second interviewer, but not infrequently by the guests as well.

Of course there are exceptions, and on some occasions one is simply keen to absorb as much as possible from a new book full of insights. And sometimes time is better deployed in exposition than in opposition. But there is no way a regular and fair listener to *Start the Week* could call out "plug". Sometimes I am extremely enthusiastic about the works we discuss — just like any print journalist. Yes, the titles of books are mentioned, just as they are in print. Apart from anything else, it saves money for those listeners who want to know what has been discussed and are irritated when forced to ring up or write in to ask what has been discussed.

Does it matter? Not the long run: the work will defend itself. The plug is reductive. The plug is a substitute for discrimination.

**POP:** V97 hits Chelmsford and Leeds; Matthew Sweet visits London; and the man behind the Waterboys is back

## A rocking good tale of two cities

### V97 Chelmsford/Leeds

If Glastonbury and Reading are the mother and father of British rock festivals, the "V" event has swiftly become the child prodigy. Mounted by the Virgin group, this two-day, two-venue summer gala won a European Festival of the Year award at the first time of asking a year ago.

To wedge a foot so firmly in the stage door is no mean achievement, since visitors have lauded the perceived over-crowding of our live outdoor schedule. This summer's loser was Phoenix, which reportedly came a commercial cropper last month.

Whereas that event has struggled to put a unique thumbprint on the festival season, V97 successfully built a unique "caravan" giving fans 150 miles apart the chance to share a 50-act bill of post-Britpop and dance fare. Thus on a roasting Saturday, campers and day pupils at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, Essex, and Temple Newsam, Leeds, marinated themselves in beer and barbecued themselves in bonhomie. And yesterday, in a mirror image, the southern bill went north and vice versa.

Via the services of a Virgin helicopter, your reporter and photographer sampled two days in one on Saturday, flying between locations and finding a spirit of eerie concurrence.

spirit, certainly, but close to combustion in the dance tent, where the Chemical Brothers were weaving their sonic sorcery in an atmosphere of at least 110 degrees, a kind of hip-hop Hades.

On the NME Stage, Manouk rounded out a performance of trademark swagger with *She Makes My Nose Bleed* and *Take It Easy Chick*, then Ash worked themselves back into contention after their recording interlude, delivering some robust new material and sending many back to their tents swaying happily to *Girl From Mars* and *Oh Yeah*.

The real homecoming was Blur's. After a busy few months on international duty, they staged a two-hour homecoming celebration. Damon Albarn clearly happy and confident in his own Essex backyard. Further emboldened by the addition of a horn section, their set managed to reflect their current tenure in garageland and to be a greatest hits celebration, on production pieces like *To The End* and *The Universal* and, naturally, their county anthem, *Girls and Boys*.

We only crashed back down to earth during a two-hour wait to get out of the car park. Helicopter, where were your speedy blades now?

PAUL SEXTON



Blur's Damon Albarn at the V97 Festival in Chelmsford: "clearly happy and confident in his own Essex backyard"

## Question of taste

WHAT looked on paper like a rich 90-minute journey through the Renaissance and Baroque golden ages of English choral music turned out to be a bit dull in reality. There was nothing wrong with the performances by the BBC Singers and the Brandenburg Consort conducted by Stephen Cleobury. But there was nothing particularly gripping about them either. Being neat and stylish isn't enough. You need passion and vision as well.

These readings never strayed from a narrow band of polite moderation. Appearing in a late-night Prom on a hot

### BBC PROMS

Friday evening at the Albert Hall they seemed all too likely to induce torpor in listeners everywhere. One-jonged for some wild lapses of taste.

Still, the music was undeniably magnificent: I have heard more imperious performances of Purcell's great coronation anthem, *My heart is inditing*, but at least this one clearly laid out the extraordinary boldness of the harmonies, with their archaic dissonances. And this pendant for spicy clashes was also the thread tying Purcell's music to that of his English predecessors, as performances of Steeplejarp, Byrd and Fayrfax revealed here.

By the time Handel wrote his Chiosos anthem *Let God arise*, such invigorating harmonic kinds had largely been ironed out of English choral music. But Handel did recapture the tradition's gassy vigour, and the curiously familiar shout of "hallelujah" at the climax of the anthem showed how swiftly he transformed it into something unmistakably his own.

RICHARD MORRISON

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# Why the RA should hang Myra

Isabel Carlisle on a portrait with the power to shock

For the first time in its history the Royal Academy has been manoeuvred into passing moral judgment on a work of art and even censoring it before it is shown.

The controversy is over a portrait of Myra Hindley in the exhibition *Sensation*, a selection of works from the Charles Saatchi collection, which opens on September 18. It is a provocative title that flouts the fact that much of the art is deliberately shocking. Young British art (as collected by Saatchi), like young British culture, is unrepentantly in-your-face, fascinated with materials and visual double meanings.

In creating *Myra*, Marcus Harvey used the cast of a child's hand to print paint onto an lift by 9ft canvas. The painting replicates the police photograph taken in 1966, as if blown up so that its pixels are made visible, and alludes to the children murdered by Hindley and Ian Brady.

Resolute in the anticipation of protests from animal rights activists about the use of dead animals in Damien Hirst's work, and from campaigners against child pornography incensed at the perverted child mannequins of the Chapman brothers, the RA is wobbling after publicity generated in the press by the children's charity Kidscape, Hindley herself, and the mothers of the murdered children Keith Bennett and Lesley Ann Downey. An extraordinary meeting of the RA's Council has been called this week to vote on whether to withdraw the painting on the ground that it would cause unnecessary suffering for the victims' relatives.

It would be a disaster for the Academy's credibility if it was forced down the slippery slope of art censorship, but that is not the only issue. Art is one way in which society deals with political and moral questions. Removing one work does not resolve the problem that the artist has focused on, or lessen the possible anguish of those directly involved. When the council votes, members should be clear that the exhibition, and *Myra* in particular, have become lightning conductors for storms that have been rumbling for some time. The Academy has been caught between the Scylla of young British art and the Charybdis of publicity-seeking individuals.

The first article dealing with the *Myra* painting appeared in the *Evening Standard* on July 25. It led with the news that: "An anti-child abuse charity has urged the public to boycott the RA over plans to exhibit a portrait of Moors child killer Myra Hindley." The director of Kidscape, Michele Elliot, was reported as saying: "How sad that an artist has to resort to sick exploitation of dead children to get noticed. I wouldn't go near this exhibition and I would advise everyone to boycott it."

This was good publicity for Kidscape but the possibility that the painting was keeping the memory of the five murdered children alive in the public imagination in a way that would arouse compassion was not considered. Nor, in the media debate that ensued, had anybody except the artist's

Every story in the press has shown a photo of the portrait

It is significant

that every story on *Myra* in the national press was illustrated by a photo of the Harvey portrait (regardless of whether that would cause distress to the victims' families or not). The photo that *Myra* is based on is the one that news editors turn to every time Hindley's case resurfaces. As Marcus Harvey has said: "The image has a kind of hideous attraction." In that demonising photo Hindley does indeed achieve parity with film stars, and in its translation into paint Harvey is doing for Hindley what Andy Warhol did for Marilyn Monroe. But two points to remember are that the photographs had already reached iconic status when the artist turned to them, and the artist never told us how to look at the paintings.

It is always dangerous to judge a work of art on the basis of a newspaper photograph. If the debate around *Myra* is to have any validity it should be put on public display, because if there are any moral judgments to be passed, it is up to us to do so. We don't need the RA to act as nanny. Motivated by the search for a new means of expression, and keenly aware of the marketing value of being controversial, young British artists will continue to push back the boundaries of what is acceptable. There will be more art that is equally hard to stomach but, unlike the Nazis, who banned their avant-garde art for being degenerate, we should be robust enough to deal with it.

Banning *Myra* would set a dangerous precedent. The right action for the Academy now is to repeat to the victims' families its shared abhorrence at the appalling crime that Hindley committed, and to go ahead and hang *Myra*.

## Going solo

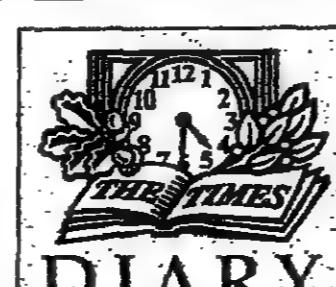
JUST when Scotland and Wales thought they had the devolution debate all to themselves, the tiny self-styled principality of Monmouthshire has come muscling onto the scene in a campaign led

by Chepstow antiquarian bookseller Greg Lance-Watkins, supporters of an independent Quendom of Monmouth are urging the reinstatement of Monmouthshire's ancient status as a buffer state between England and Wales.

"We want a Quendom because

we have no King at present," explains Lance-Watkins without a hint of sarcasm. "If devolution is good enough for Wales and Scotland, then it's time Monmouthshire also stood up and reclaimed its rightful place in the United Kingdom." The substance of Lance-Watkins's argument rests on an ancient and, he says, as yet unchallenged law which establishes Monmouthshire (population 85,000) as a free and separate entity.

"That law has never been overturned," says Lance-Watkins. "We're still technically at war with the Germans, because while the declaration of war was made on behalf of England, Scotland, Wales and Monmouthshire, the peace



### DIARY

treaty failed to include us. We give our allegiance to the Queen rather than ours."

Inspired by the new spirit of devolution, Lance-Watkins has even drafted a manifesto in which he outlines proposals for what he calls "England's very own Monco". He calls for Nato member status, inclusion of Monmouthshire in the EU and even a separate currency.

### Last orders

A CURIOUS row has erupted between Viscount Brookeborough, descendant of the Sergison family, who once owned a large estate in

Sussex, and the brewers Bass. The alteration comes after news that the brewers are planning to change the name of a Haywards Heath pub which bears Brookeborough's family name, the Sergison Arms, and rename it The Dolphin. "Brewers are too prone to changing pub names for no good reason," says the peer.

Bass maintains that in the 1880s the pub was called The Dolphin. "We are turning the clock back, not forward," said a spokesman.

• Shirley Eaton, the Bond girl who wowed us with her gold-painted body in the film *Goldfinger*, is on the lookout for a publisher. Having returned from the *Sault of France* two years ago after the death of her husband, Eaton has penned a collection of poems: "They're about the sea, my love for my husband, my children," said the former actress. "Some of them are rather spiritual."

legal firm explaining proposed changes in arrangements for duty solicitors on call. The letter stated quite clearly: "We would inform you that Miss D has exchanged her duty which is on July 1 (already swapped with Mr G) with Mr M, who will be taking that date, while Miss D will be doing the court duty on July 14 for Mr M (who had already swapped with Mr N). We trust this will not cause any confusion." A police spokesman said: "Of course we are not confused. We are totally gobsmacked. Do you know

the number of the Plain English Campaign?"



Golden girl: Shirley Eaton

### Sparks fly

AMATEUR dramatics society's favourite playwright, Sir Alan Ayckbourn, has become embroiled in a village drama of his own. Set in Great Ayton, North Yorkshire, the plot involves 800 villagers, the council and Sir Alan being uprooted by a local eccentric.

Ayckbourn, hoping for a repeat of his 1996 triumph when he transformed an Odeon cinema into a £5.2-million theatre in Scarborough after a battle with the council over funding, had lent his support to a campaign to stop the conversion of the village's Rosehill Theatre into houses. Ayckbourn had written to Hambleton council, urging it to vote for its preservation saying it was "a valuable and popular asset to the village's social life". But his mission was thwarted by electrical contractor Chris Scarf, who dismissed the village's theatrical dreams as "pure fantasy". Sadly, the district council did not appreciate Sir Alan either, and he is now playing a role in the drama.



Thwarted: Alan Ayckbourn

• As the smoke clears from the battlefields of Lee Bar, Cornwall, after last week's scuffles between members of a German religious cult who invaded the beach to worship their 'god', the National Trust, local residents were left wondering just why the eviction took so long. One Trust official admitted that the problem was one of judicial interests: "We had a job getting a judge who was not a member of the National Trust."

P.H.S.



"I knew this would happen"

# Nothing Taki, it's just Platonic

A hitherto undiscovered dialogue of Plato, *Soki and Taki*, found recently in the Vatican library

Socrates: Yesterday, Taki, we talked about the gods, and Hermes said that today we ought to talk about heroes and men.

Taki: It was even so, Socrates.

Socrates: You have recently lost a friend who admired the virtues of the heroes of the golden age. He himself resembled many of our old Greek heroes, and was a powerful enemy but a loyal friend, is it not so?

Taki: It was so, and I loved him for it.

Socrates: He prevailed in his own battles and showed great courage. When he retired, he went to his country estates, he had many wives and many children who mourn his memory.

Even when he had retired, he remained active in the life of his two countries, one his father's and the other his mother's. As our ancestors would have judged it, this was indeed a good life.

Taki: It was so, and he is so remembered by his friends.

Socrates: Yet could it not be thought that this was a life in which little was learnt that was not known already to the Greek heroes of old, to Ajax or Achilles, who lived 3,000 years before your friend was born?

Taki: Courage and loyalty are always virtues appropriate to a hero.

Socrates: Yet you have other friends, of whom you often write, who are not heroes, who lack the magnificent aspirations of the friend of the Moors' victims'. Or is it that the wave of revision that

inevitably accompanies any

parading of her case in the public eye might jeopardise her appeal? Her alignment with the victims' families is suspect if not hypocritical.

Winnie Johnson said as much to the *Oldham Evening Chronicle* and retaliated by threatening to launch a private prosecution for her son's murder.

Socrates: Today we must speak not only of heroes and men, but of happiness. Are men happy in proportion to their virtue?

Taki: In this world, Socrates,

I have observed that they are not. Socrates: Are men successful in proportion to their virtue?

Taki: In this world, Socrates, I have observed that they are not.

Socrates: So virtue gives no assurance either of happiness or of success.

Taki: We are both Greeks, Socrates.

You were the Greek of the highest virtue in your times, and the people of Athens condemned you to death. They are no wiser today.

Socrates: So virtue does not lead to happiness or success. Yet you celebrate the virtues of your friend. Why is that?

Taki: For him, his virtues helped him to succeed. The modern world is in this way much like the old world — to the strong belong the spoils. But I loved him for his virtues and would have done so even if his courage had led to his ruin, as it might have done.

Socrates: Virtue is therefore good in itself. Courage is good in itself, loyalty is good in itself, compassion is good in itself, honesty is good in itself. Is that not so?

Taki: I cannot disagree with what you say.

Socrates: Yet you choose to lead a life among people who lack these virtues. When you write of the city you call "the Big Apple", it seems to have many people who are indeed rich, but who lack the heroic virtues you admire, and the Christian virtues of humility and compassion as well. There were many such people

in Athens when I was living there. Socrates: As I said, Socrates, Athens has not changed in that respect.

Socrates: We were speaking yesterday of another of your rich friends, Dodi. He does not, I think, possess the virtues of the old heroes of the *Iliad*.

Taki: Nor indeed does he possess the wisdom of the hero of the *Odyssey*.

Socrates: Yet, by the standards which you seem to accept he leads a most successful life. He comes of a

chariots of luxury on land, sea and air. Is it not so?

Taki: These are indeed the objects which many of my friends covet.

Socrates: Would you not therefore say that Dodi is successful, that his life is a model for younger men to emulate? He must, I suppose, be a very happy man, since he has everything which others of his contemporaries are striving to win for themselves.

Taki: Few people would call him successful, if only because it is his father who has made the fortune. Even I feel more successful by writing, which is my own achievement, than from my fortune, which was my father's.

Socrates: You too have slept with many beautiful women, perhaps with more than Dodi, as you are older than he is. Do you think this has made him happy?

Taki: I think it probably made him happy when he was doing it, but post *coitum omne animal triste*, there is a sadness which follows making love.

Socrates: Is not the sadness deeper than that? Is he not an example to you not an example, was not your friend himself an example, of seeking happiness where it cannot be found?

Taki: I think it probably made him happy when he was doing it, but post *coitum omne animal triste*, there is a sadness which follows making love.

Socrates: He has then all those benefits which people of your society aspire to — riches, beautiful women,

You yourself have drunk much: you often write of it: do men find happiness in gold any more than you could find it in a bottle?

Taki: The life of pleasure, lived with courage and loyalty to friends, is not a dishonourable life, on Socrates.

Socrates: I was not speaking of dishonour, Taki, but of illusion. Do not the goods that are bought in a shop, even in Dodie's father's shop, bring little comfort to those whose lives are unhappy? Can a young woman who has lost her lover be made happy by a jewelled ring? Will she not continue to bewail her lot?

Taki: Some young women would have a jewel than any lover, but it is true, Socrates, that there is much suffering in a life of pleasure, diligently pursued. That is why the life of pleasure is only a proper undertaking for men of courage. It is no career for weaklings.

Socrates: Does a wise person, man or woman, seek happiness where it cannot be found?

Taki: No Socrates, a wise person does not. But where is a wise person to be found and where is happiness to be found?

Socrates: We shall talk about that, Taki, tomorrow. If we have established where happiness is not to be found, we may yet hope to tell where it may be discovered. It seems, from what we have said, that there is little happiness in the fashionable life of wealth and pleasure, and perhaps much pain.

Happiness is not to be found in a bank account or in a succession of love affairs, or even in the best wines, nor can it be bought in a shop. For those who seek it in these places, we should feel pity rather than anger. Perhaps, as the sages have said, happiness comes only from the gods or from service in others. But we shall speak more of that anon.

Mr Mandelson has surprised colleagues, and the media, before by putting himself out on an electoral limb when he was secure at the centre of power. He abandoned his position by Neil Kinnock's side, as Labour's head of campaigns and communications, in the run-up to the 1992 general election to find a seat. At the time, his decision to leave the security of the Leader's cadre for life as another backbencher surprised some but, notwithstanding his internal exile under John Smith, Mr Mandelson's manoeuvre paid off.

Now, it is assumed, he is taking a far greater risk. Demanded by the media, disliked by parliamentary colleagues and dubbed a "vote-loser" by Tory focus groups — they should know, he seems destined to fail in his search for a seat on the NEC when he could continue to enjoy a favoured place next to the throne. Why risk failure when all else is set fair?

Mr Mandelson, however, will not fail. New Labour does not pick battles it cannot win. He has working for him the most effective electoral machine within the party. In the past, internal Labour Party elections were won by vote-gathering caucuses of the Left, whether Hard like the Bennite Rank and File Mobilising Committee, or Soft like the Labour Co-ordinating Committee. Now, they are like the causes to which they rallied, in Mandelson's dustbin of history.

The Campaign Group still scores some successes in the party's elections, as the survival of Diane Abbott attests, but the only machine still worthy of the name is on the party's modernising Right. The votes in the battle to reform Clause Four were delivered by an ad hoc group of young activists, operating with Mr Blair's blessing from rooms in South London, and their work has been carried on by the "political education trust", Progress.

It is run by Mr Mandelson's former aide, Derek Draper, now completing an authoritative account of Mr Blair's first 100 days. Progress and those around it run a network of leadership-loyal activists and weekend training schools addressed by former union fixers such as the Armed Forces Minister John Speaker, who are past masters at making sure democracy delivers. In new Labour it won't only be Cabinet reshuffles which allow the leader to put his people into power.

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## LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

## The high cost of corruption is finally being acknowledged

Three remarkable calls to action by India's leaders and one cautiously worded but equally revolutionary document issued this month by the International Monetary Fund could be August swallows announcing a fairer future summer for millions. Their common theme is corruption, an evil which, like extreme poverty, has been with us since the dawn of organised society. Like poverty, corruption has been too easily accepted — particularly by those who do not themselves have to endure it — as unavoidable in any but the best-run and well-established democracies. That could now be changing; and changing, most hearteningly, not just in the West but in lands in which it is endemic.

In Delhi, Indra Kumar Gujral, India's new "Untouchable" Prime Minister, has marked the 50th anniversary of independence with an impassioned call endorsed by India's President, for nothing less than a mass campaign of civil disobedience in the style of Mahatma Gandhi, to confront the corruption "eating into the country's vital like termites". He has appealed to business to report corrupt politicians and officials to a new unit in the Prime Minister's office. But his target is not only such notorious corruption cases as the \$175 million indictment against a former leader of his own Janata Dal Party or the scandal surrounding the former Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, but the quotidian petty bribery which Indians have come to treat as normal. Givers, he says, share the blame with takers; every Indian should "resolve today that we will not give a single penny as a bribe to get our work done at any level".

Behind this appeal, which if heeded would change India as much as it would enrich it, lies a sharpening recognition that corruption and poverty go together. It is a form of semi-organised crime, which in countries such as Mexico has been estimated to cost society the equivalent of an extra 20 per cent on marginal tax rates. The poorest pay most — in less education, poorer health and diminished economic opportunity. And the poor have coined a whole language to describe it.

In Mobutu's Zaire, official looting was known as "affirmative shopping"; across the world in Indonesia, low-grade (and low-paid) officials calmly refer to bribery as a bribe to get our work done at any level".

## SEPARATE HOUSES

## British sport is not best served by a single national academy

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, will soon take a decision involving £100 million of public money. The question he faces is whether to spend lottery cash on a national academy for sport, and if so, where to site the academy, and which sports it should cover. Most people agree on the need for measures to reverse the decline in Britain's sporting prowess; more contentious are the measures themselves.

The genesis of the academy lay with the last Conservative Government. Impressed by Australia's Institute of Sport, set up in the 1970s to address the country's poor performance in the international arena, the then Sports Minister, Iain Spratt, suggested a similar institution here. The idea was strongly backed by John Major.

Specialist sports bodies, however, were less enthusiastic about so much money being spent on just one centre, in which rowers were supposed to mingle with rhythmic gymnasts, shot putters with spin bowlers. In their submissions to the National Heritage Department a year ago, national governing bodies were tepid verging on cool about the proposal. Almost all preferred to concentrate on centres of excellence specific to their sport.

Moreover, closer examination of Australia's record reveals that its national institute has been less than successful in its stated aim. In tennis, for instance, a sport which Australians used to dominate, there has been only one grand slam event singles

winner, male or female, from that country since 1980.

The commercial, non-Olympic sports such as cricket and rugby can raise their own money to boost their game. And football has so highly developed a network of club apprenticeships that it is closing the National School at Lilleshall. The competitive pressures on Premier League clubs are such that it pays huge dividends for them to spot and train talent young rather than find millions of pounds to buy established stars.

More deserving of public assistance are amateur sports such as athletics, gymnastics, swimming and water sports, where television does not bring in enormous income and where Olympic-style facilities for training are rare. But these sports would do better to be given money in regional centres of excellence, closer to athletes' homes, and even for one national centre specific to each discipline.

It is easy to see why Mr Major latched on to the idea of bringing all sporting talent under one roof; on first thought it sounds attractive. But second thoughts make better policy. If Mr Smith is to build a national headquarters, it should concentrate on cross-disciplinary subjects such as sports science, medicine, fitness techniques and technology. For the rest, he should give British sport what it wants and needs: a network of specialist satellite centres, where swimmers can train with swimmers and sprinters with sprinters.

## ALL IN THE MIND

## Mental games make the most humane of sporting contests

This week London provides an arena for formidable mental combat. The Mind Sports Olympiad, open to anyone, begins at the Royal Festival Hall. Contestants are arriving from all over the world to pit their cerebral skills against each other. Those unable to attend in person can log on to the Internet site and via a virtual game.

Modern interest in sport and physical fitness borders on the obsessional. We worship at the temple of the body. But the exercise of the mind is as essential to our well-being as our morning score of sit-ups. Honing logic, increasing mental agility and expanding memory, it heightens adaptability and saves off premature senility. The ancient world knew this well. It was for *mens sana in corpore sano* that Juvenal prayed.

Many of the games featured in the Olympiad are of antique provenance. It has often been postulated that a precursor to draughts existed in Egypt as long ago as 1600 BC, while the Chinese, it is believed, were playing a version of chess — *xiangqi* — as long ago as 400 BC. These ancient games now take their place in the Olympiad alongside such innovations as *Abalone*, a test of strategy played with marbles on a hexagonal board, and *Magic: The Gathering*, a trading-card game invented in 1993. Ancient or modern, imaginative or logical, they share one element: the power to expand and sharpen the mind.

In themselves these games may seem futile. Years of intensive training are sometimes required and the skills attained may not have direct practical use. But Plato believed that such games formed a vital part of a leader's education, while such thinkers as Marcel Duchamp, Hermann Hesse and Ludwig Wittgenstein elevated them to an almost mystical significance.

Nowadays companies are increasingly aware of the importance of their intellectual assets which — though they may not register on the balance sheet — enhance competitiveness. The ancient Chinese game of Go, in which the winner is the one whose counters control most territory on a grid, is said to be analogous to business management. Merchant banks are quick to employ chess masters, while contestants who compete to compile computer programmes against the clock have obvious commercial relevance.

Britain sets an important precedent in staging this first Mind Sports Olympiad. The nation is improving its performance in these contests of the mind. Earlier this year the English team won the European chess championship. Perhaps next year we should move the counters one square further, competing to invent a new game — one which, like the glass bead game which Hesse dreamt off, would employ the widest range of mental faculties, melding the skills of art and science. But for now, let play commence.

## The 'quagmire' for a Bill of Rights

From the Provost of The Queen's College, Oxford

Sir, It will be a bad day for rights and liberties if the Government is allowed to get away with introducing a Bill of Rights based on the New Zealand model — the "weakest" of the four options outlined by David Pannick ("How to judge a human rights Bill", Law, August 12).

The New Zealand model is not a genuine Bill of Rights. The New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 is to put it no higher! an unprincipled and nonsensical instrument which affirms in effect that all citizens have rights unless the legislature (in practice the government majority) decides that they do not.

The Act forbids the courts to hold any law invalid by reason of its inconsistency with the Bill of Rights. Such a provision violates both constitutional principle and common sense. It is the function of courts to decide what the law is.

If the Bill of Rights is law, its express purpose is to disable a simple majority of legislators from infringing rights. To deny power to the courts to determine when they have done so is to enable the majority to determine the limits of their own jurisdiction, a provision which simultaneously damages the rule of law and the separation of powers.

All of this is elementary, but it seems about to be ignored.

In New Zealand the model chosen has produced a legal quagmire, and it would do so here. There may, in many cases, be no judicial opinion on the compatibility of legislation with the Bill of Rights, since if a court considers that the legislation is clear the question of whether it infringes rights does not arise for decision.

All those in all parties who have over the years supported the case for a Bill of Rights will regard a Bill modelled on these principles as a betrayal of their cause and will treat it with deserved derision.

If — as is rumoured — the New Zealand model is what the Lord Chancellor's Cabinet committee has in mind, it would do well to think again.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY MARSHALL,  
The Queen's College, Oxford.  
August 13.

## Role of the CPS

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, Justice is the principle intended to underlie all our criminal procedures. But should it really be the duty of a prosecuting counsel "to act as a minister of justice", as His Honour Judge Morell suggests in his letter of August 13? Is not the duty of the judge, leaving it to prosecuting counsel to prosecute and defending counsel to defend? This after all is the basis of our adversarial system of trial.

Much court time is wasted nowadays by prosecuting counsel elaborately explaining to the jury the necessity to satisfy the "burden" and also the "standard" of proof. That is the first duty of the judge in summing up, and defending counsel will rightly have placed full emphasis on it. Having heard these points repeated at such length by all three bewigged lawyers in turn, the jury may sometimes be left with the impression that they cannot safely convict, despite clear views they may have reached about the guilt of the accused.

All this may have some bearing on the high percentage of acquittals.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH DEAN,  
The Hall,  
West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent.  
August 14.

## Master class?

From Mr Hugh Walton

Sir, The lady who wishes to be awarded a degree of Mistress of Arts (letter, August 15) may take encouragement from the fact that, as long ago as the last century, my mother and her contemporaries at graduation were awarded the degree of Lady Literate in Arts (LLA), at St Andrews University, even though, as I have been told, this degree no longer exists.

Yours faithfully,  
H. M. WALTON,  
Queenscroft,  
8 Third Ace Rise, Oxford.  
August 15.

From Dr Christine Laine

Sir, In the past month my husband has received letters addressed solely to him regarding joint investments, my personal investments and our daughter's schooling. Whilst such out-dated practices persist there will always be a need for the Sue Wilkes of the world to challenge current thinking by voicing what appear, today, to be extreme views.

Yours faithfully,  
C. LAINE,  
Springfield, Marford, Wrexham.  
August 15.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## A levels given a rollercoaster ride

From Mr Adam A. C. Barnard

Sir, If indeed higher A-level pass rates reflect a deflation in the value of England's gold standard, as the Institute of Management suggests (report, August 14), surely the answer is to address the content of the examinations, not the number taken.

In the days when A levels were valued more highly, typically only three were sat. The modern system of modular subjects under which papers can be continually repeated across the two years of studying until the desired result is achieved, diffuses the intensity of work required, making it possible that one or more A levels will have been completed come the main sitting in June, and allowing candidates to select the best of perhaps four attempts at a single paper.

To regain our role as international leaders of education, we need to go back, not back.

Yours faithfully,  
ADAM BARNARD,  
3 The Terrace, Barnes, SW13.  
August 15.

From Mr Victor Serebriakov

Sir, The greater proportion that get it, the less the value of an A-level pass to the pupil and the employer; the greater the apparent value to the Government, the school and teachers. The Establishment claims an 87 per cent success rate (report, August 14); employers grumble about standards.

What is the use to an employer or applicant of a scholastic qualification that ensures only that the pupil is better than the worst-scoring 13 per cent of the quarter million students that took it?

Discussions between the teachers, inspectors and employers might help produce a compromise which resolved this paradox and made the results more meaningful and informative. If, for instance, the average percentile or even decile rating of each pupil were given it would be more informative. (A decile shows in which tenth the score is: the top, second, sixth or which.)

Preferably the measure should be based on added value. The percentile should be performance-related to mental age as well as to actual age, as in IQ tests, thus reflecting the value added by the teachers and the school. To know the school average of these ratings as well as the pass rate would also be helpful.

Yours faithfully,  
VICTOR SEREBRIAKOV  
(President of the Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children),  
Flat 1/6 The Paragon,  
Blackheath, SE3.  
August 16.

From Mr Christopher Wolland

Sir, Your leading article today asks if A-level students are sufficiently stretched. Having taught A-level history for 30 years, and as an examiner in the subject, I am convinced that the demands placed on students in this

subject at least, are just as great, and in some respects greater, than in the past.

A-level history teaches the student to make judgments through a rigorous examination of evidence, to come to conclusions about complex issues after thorough study and debate and to discriminate between verifiable fact and mere assertion. If only our politicians could do the same, particularly when speaking on the subject of education.

Many A-level students today produce work of which university students in the past would have been proud; I assure you, they are stretched.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER WOLLAND  
(Director of Sixth Form Studies,  
Handsworth Grammar School,  
The Firs, Station Road,  
Westbury, Shropshire, Shropshire.  
August 14.

From Mr David Anderson

Sir, Before collecting my own results this morning, I read Baroness Blackstone's effort to refute the "damaging canard" that A-level standards are failing ("A bridge for the gap year", August 14). I was not convinced.

Having studiously read exam papers, syllabuses and textbooks from previous years, I have no doubt that over the past decade there has been a phenomenal slide in the difficulty and rigour of the A-level examinations, at least in my own subjects of double maths, physics and chemistry. More difficult material was being constantly "falling off" the top end and replaced by new material arriving from GCSEs.

A levels, in my view, are a devalued currency. The only way to arrest the slide is to admit the problem.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID ANDERSON,  
4 Grass Yard, Kimbolton,  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.  
david\_anderson@usa.net  
August 14.

From Mr Malcolm Stewart

Sir, The heading to Dr Stuttaford's article today, "Elderly drive less dangerously than young", is accurate as far as it goes. The young are more easily provoked, particularly by people driving slowly enough to be pulled over by the police.

If driving statistics categorised as "behaviour likely to contribute to an accident" existed, I suspect the elderly would show the young a thing or two. Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM STEWART,  
17a Burford Road,  
Witney, Oxfordshire.  
August 14.

## Essex man

From Dr Chris Pond

Sir, I see that Essex County Council (report, 12 August) is trying to dispel the Essex Man image. Shame on them! Loyal Essex men and women have long cherished and even fostered the belief that they are "reckless Philistines", in the full knowledge of its error.

After all, we don't want the quiet woods and fields, the lonely marshes and the pleasant towns and villages of God's Own County over-run by incomers from Herts, Bucks or Surrey — the shiremen, as Essex people call them...

Yours faithfully,  
C. C. POND,  
Forest Villa,  
Staples Road, Loughton, Essex.  
106/26/24@compuserve.com  
August 12.

From Mr Derrick Murphy

Sir, I was gratified to read Michael Hornsby's report concerning the plight of Essex Man.

As someone who was brought up in Essex, but who left the county many years ago, I was pleased to see mention of the bipolar nature of the county: the industrial southeast and the picturesque countryside. Perhaps the time has come not for a damage limitation exercise but a recognition of that fact.

A better course would be to follow the distinction made in Kent. Essex Man could be located south of Chelmsford and characterised by the use of "esuary" English and by the cultural baggage associated with the term: north of Chelmsford could be the home of the Man of Essex, an East Anglian still living in what remains of a once pleasant rural county.

Yours faithfully,

DERRICK MURPHY,  
14 Church Road, Davenport Green,  
Wimblsow, Cheshire.  
August 12.

## Cut above the rest

From Miss Sarah Mulholland

Sir, Still pondering over the intriguing images of de-ranged lawnmowers, alarmed meters and mad prawns flatters, August 12, 13 and 14. I am now wondering whether to take up the offer of a local hairdresser to cut my hair "while-u-wait". Given the hectic pace of life, however, perhaps I should after all simply leave it to be cut while I pursue other tasks.

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH MULHOLLAND  
39 Private Road,  
Sherwood, Nottingham.  
August 14.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BALMORAL CASTLE**  
August 17: The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by other Members of the Royal Family, disembarked from *HMY Britannia* this morning at Clibber Quay, Aberdeen Harbour, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Aberdeen (Mrs Margaret Farquhar, the Lord Provost). Her Majesty and their Royal Highnesses subsequently drove to Balmoral Castle.

### Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines  
CAPTAIN: M P Fitzgerald to MoD Bristol, 17.09.

COMMANDER: M P Avery to MoD London in rank of Acting Captain, 12.09; W B Geddes to IIMS Brussels, 11.8.97; C E Stanley to JCSC, 1.9.97.

MAJOR: S V Balm to HQRM 6.1.98.

Retirements  
COMMANDER: J S Aiken, 7.11.97; W M Holden, 7.1.97.

Royal Air Force  
GROUP CAPTAIN: C P Lambert to HQ BFI, 20.8.97.

WING COMMANDER: M R Hooker to HQSTC, 23.9.97; P A Morris to RAF Lymington, 4.8.97; N C Randle to RAF Coningsby, 4.8.97; A Thompson to RAF High Wycombe, 4.8.97; P Williams to BDIS Washington, 4.8.97; D M Wood to RAF Coningsby, 4.8.97; E G Coulter to MoD (PE), 16.9.97.

## Lonely heart gander steps out again

A LONELY hearts advertisement on behalf of a pining gander has brought a spring to his step. The seven-year-old gander, Boy, was feeling unloved after all four of his flock were killed by foxes or stolen.

Arthur Green, 78, of Ledbury, Herefordshire, said: "When his last mate went, Boy just went to pieces. I had tried everybody I know who keeps geese but no one had one available, so I put an advert in the paper."

The advertisement in the *Ledbury Reporter*, asking for "a mature white goose" to help a "lonely gander from pining away", brought a dozen replies. Mr Green chose Daisy and Spotless and the effect on Boy was immediate. "He's no longer an old Boy, more like a young stud. I'm sure we will have goslings in spring."



Boy, right, followed by his new mates Daisy and Spotless, parades around his old field at Ledbury

### University news

Durham  
Professor John Anstee has been appointed as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Professor Tony Unsworth has been appointed Dean for the Faculty of Science and Dr Joy Palmer Dean for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Queen's University, Belfast  
Recent grants include:

Health and Health Care Research Unit: Dr M Donnelly, £14.304 for "the admissions of young people to psychiatric hospital care".

Northern Ireland Cancer Registry: Dr A Gavin, £20,000 over three years from BCH Trust Funds

### for cancer research.

Northern Ireland Technology Centre Professor E Beatty, £26,367 over seven months from the European Union for the promotion of innovative management techniques in SME, and £84,307 over one year for a pre-plot project.

### Royal engagement

Princess Margaret, president, Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, visits the Craignardoch Hotel, Ballater, 6.35, and accepts a cheque for the society from staff and guests of Stakis Hotels.

### Birthdays today

Professor R.M. Acheson, epidemiologist, 76; Mr Brian Aldiss, science fiction writer, 72; Sir Bryan Askew, former chairman, Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, 67; Dame Josephine Barnes, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 85; Miss Nicola Bayley, writer and illustrator, 48; Sir James Burrell, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 64; Mr Neil Durdin-Smith, sports commentator, 64; Mr Godfrey Evans, former cricketer, 77; Sir Robert Horion, chairman, Railtrack, 58; Dame Moura Lympany, concert pianist, 81; Sir John Mason, FRS, former director-general, Meteorological Office, 74; Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, 69; Mr H.S.K. Peplatt, chairman, Moorfields Eye Hospital, 67; Mr Roman Polanski, film director, 54; Mr Justice Potts, 66; Mr Robert Redford, actor and director, 60; Mr Patrick Shovelton, civil aviation and shipping expert, 78; Mr P.A.C. Smith, former chairman, Securicor, 77; Mr Patrick Swayze, actor, 45; General Bramwell H. Tillis, former international leader, Salvation Army, 66; Mr Caspar Weinberger, GBE, former American Secretary of Defence, 80; Mr Charles Wilson, managing director, Mirror Group, 62; Miss Shelley Winters, actress, 75.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.N. Bushell and Miss E.A. Holland

The engagement is announced between Kevin Neil, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Bushell, of Caversham, Berkshire, and Elizabeth Ann (Lisa), younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Holland, of South Nutfield, Surrey.

Mr P.A. Clark and Captain J.R. Orpia, AGC (ETS)

The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Clark, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr Brian Martin and Mrs Sylvia Freeman.

Mr C. Coomaraswamy and Dr S. Wilson

The marriage will take place on September 6, at Newham College, Cambridge, between Chamini, son of Mr and Mrs Gilbert Coomaraswamy, of London, W2, and Sarah Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Wilson, of County Durham.

Mr P.M.A. Corbin and Miss G.H. Keeley

The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Corbin, of Dorset, Dorset, and Genevieve, daughter of the late Mr William Brian Keeley and of Mrs W.B. Keeley, of Maidenhead, Berkshire. Dr R.B. Godwin-Austen and Dr S. Shearman

The engagement is announced between Richard Godwin-Austen and Mrs Katherine Myers, of Highgate, London, and Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Ferrer Burton, of Ryford, Herefordshire.

Mr R.W.L. Macdougall and Miss J.M. Macdaniel

The engagement is announced between Alasdair, elder son of Mr Patrick Macdougall, of Fulham, London, and Mrs Sally Macdougall, of Chobham, Surrey, and Jennie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Macdaniel, of Leatherhead, Surrey.

Mr R.W. Myers and Miss C.J.F. Barlowe

The engagement is announced between Robert, only son of the late Honour Mark Myers and of Mrs Katherine Myers, of Highgate, London, and Clare, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Ferrer Burton, of Ryford, Herefordshire.

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## Marriages

The Rev A.F. Needham and Miss L.F. Stephenson

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Martin's Church, Great Northolt, between Mr Andrew Needham, younger son of Sir Richard and Lady Needham, of London, SW1, to Miss Lindsay Stephenson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lance Stephenson, of Thompson, Essex. The Rev Henry Richardson officiated.

Mr S. Colyer and Miss M. Marshall

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary's Church, Great Northolt, between Mr and Mrs Peter Colyer, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Colyer, and Miss Michelle Marshall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lance Stephenson, of Thompson, Essex.

The Rev Henry Richardson officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Christine Needham and Mrs Helen Baker, Viscount Newby and Mame best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Africa.

Mr J. Spring Rice and Miss N.L. Robinson

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Michael's, Bray-on-Thames, between Mr and Mrs Spring Rice, son of the Hon. Michael Spring and Mrs Spring Rice of Neerton, Wiltshire, to Miss Natalie Lorna Robinson, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Rivett-Carnac, of Bracknell, Berkshire. The Rev G. Repath officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lady Christine Needham and Mrs Helen Baker, Viscount Newby and Mame best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Mr D.C.E. Pearson and Mrs B.A. Thompson

A service of blessing was held on Saturday, in Berwick-upon-Tweed, at St John the Baptist Church, after the marriage of Mr David Pearson to Mrs Bridget Thompson. Canon Sydney Wilson officiated.

Mr G.W. Venton and Miss J.D. Wilson

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 16, at St Finbar's Church, Belfast, of Mr Gerard Venton to Miss Jacqueline Wilson.

The honeymoon will be spent in America.

Mr S.J. Austin and Ms C.S. Cheshire

The marriage took place on Friday, August 15, 1997, at Sandown Park, of Mr Stuart James Austin, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. Austin of Haywards Heath, to Ms Claire Susan Cheshire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs S.G.E. Payne, of Guildford, Surrey. Mr Mark Austin was best man.

Mr C.R. Wilson and Mrs J.G. Pickard

The marriage took place on August 15, in London, between Mr Cive Richard Wilson and Mrs Margaret Jennifer Pickard, widow of John Pickard.

Mr G.W. Venton and Miss J.D. Wilson

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 16, at St Finbar's Church, Belfast, of Mr Gerard Venton to Miss Jacqueline Wilson.

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## Nature notes

**PIGEONS** and doves are almost the only birds singing during the long, hot days of August: collared doves sing out their repeated triple coo from rooftops; wood pigeons coo more deeply in the trees.

Families of swallows fly high over lakes and ponds to catch the small insects rising from them; sometimes one will dive down and take a sip of water before rejoining the flock. Families of goldfinches and greenfinches are still flying about together and will soon join up into larger flocks. The goldfinches are feeding on thistle and ragwort seeds,

the edge of some fields, tall oats from crops of earlier years are still left standing. The white flowers of scented mayweed are spreading through the stubble.

Along railway embankments golden rod mingles with the rosebay willowherb, and the dull gold flowers of fleabane are common on roadside verges. By rivers the great water dock has clusters of pink flowers, and many small butterflies are feeding on the buddleia.

DJM

the greenfinches picking up scattered grain in the fields, though not much is left for them nowadays by the combine harvesters.

much of the barley and wheat has been harvested; at

the edge of some fields, tall oats from crops of earlier years are still left standing. The white flowers of scented mayweed are spreading through the stubble.

DJM

## OBITUARIES

## TOM ECKERSLEY

Tom Eckersley, OBE, graphic designer, died on August 1 aged 82. He was born on September 30, 1914.

The poster work of Tom Eckersley forms an unbroken bridge from the stark modernism of David Bomberg and Edward Wadsworth to the colourful graphics and pop art of the 1960s. There is no fuss or waste in his designs, and their purpose is communicated at once. His bold images were built from silhouettes and blocks of flat colour, geometric or smooth which seduced the eye into reading the message from the advertiser or the ministry. Whether sponsored by government or commerce, the early posters aimed to beguile urban man into a frenetic conformity and an appreciation of how lucky he was to live in the age of mass production and the motor car. Later, the touch was rather lighter and wittier, with more visual puns.

Eckersley flourished in the great days of the poster, from the 1930s to the 1960s, when enterprises such as Shell-Mex, London Transport and the General Post Office were commissioning prolifically and supporting some remarkable artists, ranging from Rex Whistler to Duncan Grant and Ben Nicholson. For their money they got not only effective publicity, but some of the finest graphic work done in Britain this century. Posters by Eckersley and his friends are now preserved in museums and appear at Sotheby's.

The son of a Methodist minister, Tom Eckersley was born in Lowton, Lancashire, into a house full of books. He spent much of his childhood reading and drawing, and at 16 was enrolled by his mother into the Salford School of Art, where he won the Heywood medal for best student.



"The early Thirties made a strong and lasting impression on me," he later said. "At that time the poster was perhaps the most significant form of publicity. The great Cassandre and other French designers produced avant-garde posters, as did McKnight Kauffer and Hans Schleger in England."

By the time he was 20, he had teamed up with another student, Eric Lombers, and the pair were designing posters to offer to agencies. Moving to London, they taught together at the Westminster School of Art in 1938-39, and by 1940 "Eckersley Lombers" was well established, with work for the BBC, Austin Reed and the agency W. S. Crawford. They also produced some headpieces and illustrations for *Radio Times*.

At the beginning of the war, the partners separated, Lombers going into the Army and Eckersley into the RAF as a cartographer. After living in an RAF station producing maps and technical drawings, he was eventually transferred to the Air Ministry's publicity office. With the return of peace he briefly attempted to revive the partnership, but it was not to be and instead he built a strong freelance career. In the 1940s he illustrated his wife's book *Cat of Nine Lives*, and did simple brush drawings for *Animals on Parade*, with words by E. A. Cabral.

In 1948 he was appointed OBE when only 34, in recognition of his public service posters for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, such as "Replace covers, prevent falls" and "Broken rungs cause broken limbs".

"There has always been a certain amount of bad work around," he said in 1990, "but I never thought it would turn out like this."

He was twice married, first to Daisy Brown, and then to the painter Mary Kessell. He is survived by his wife and two of his three sons from his first marriage. Another son, Paul, died earlier this year.

actions — and of "careless talk". The series continued into peacetime with a number of road safety exhortations.

On a lighter note, he designed the poster for the 1949 film *Whisky Galore*, and a series of six posters with the legend "Good mornings begin with Gillette" with happy, well-shaven billy-goats, pandas and Egyptians, head to head with their ungroomed counterparts.

In 1957 Eckersley became head of design at the London College of Printing, where he taught for 20 years and was honoured with a retrospective in 1973. Alongside his teaching, he thought it essential to continue as a practitioner, and his later clients included Cook's, United and the World Wide Fund for Nature. He also worked as a national inspector of art and design courses. He was appointed Royal Designer for Industry in 1965, won the Chartered Society of Designers' medal in 1990, and held a number of design fellowships.

During the 1980s and 1990s there were regular exhibitions of his work, and it began to be collected internationally. He was always grateful for the "enlightened" patronage of Frank Pick at London Transport, Colonel Beddington at Shell, and their peers; but he was scornful of the brazen commercialism of modern poster design, which with its aggressive, computer-generated images and fearful typefaces has none of his humour or visual good manners.

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## BBS NEEDS COME FIRST



## POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK



## WINTER SHELL until next May



## Good mornings begin with Gillette

## JOHN WILKIN

F. John Wilkin, CBE, DFM, Pathfinder navigator and Chief Accountant for the House of Commons, 1962-80, died on August 4 aged 80. He was born on August 15, 1916.

AS WELL as being a devoted servant of the House of Commons, John Wilkin had a notable wartime career as a navigator for the RAF Pathfinder Force. He won his Distinguished Flying Medal in the summer of 1943 for the tenacity with which he had displayed during 27 operational sorties against targets in Germany, Italy and enemy-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Frederick John Wilkin was brought up in South London, attending Southwark Central School along with George Brown, the future deputy leader of the Labour Party. Wilkin was keen to get on, so after leaving school he went on to Morley College in Lambeth. In 1938, he was appointed a junior clerk on the financial side of the Air Ministry at Adastral House in Kingsway.

At the outbreak of war his department was moved to Westonbirt School for Girls in Gloucestershire. Loath to remain behind a desk, he hired a tandem and cycled with his young friend "Mac" Allen to Gloucester, where he enlisted in the RAF.

After a spell in Norfolk on airfield defence, where much time was wasted polishing ammunition, he was selected for training as a navigator in Canada. For part of their training (this being before Pearl Harbor), his class were sent down to Miami where, in plain clothes, they learnt about navigation on Pan American Clipper flying-boats.

Back home, Wilkin qualified as a sergeant navigator and flew in Wellington bombers.



home airfield, Wilkin's pilot found that their plane had been so badly damaged that the undercarriage could not be lowered. With great skill he landed the aircraft on its belly, but with no brake application available it slid off the end of the runway into the fields beyond. The wireless operator, the only one with a torch to hand, went round identifying his comrades. Remarkably, they had all survived.

After 45 operational sorties, Wilkin was awarded the Permanent Pathfinder Badge.

He was then commissioned,

rose to the rank of squadron leader and taught young navigators at Hemswell in Lincolnshire.

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## THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY AUGUST 18 1997

## NEWS

## Workers' stake plan for Post Office

■ The Government is examining plans to give postal workers a stake in the Post Office by introducing a form of employee ownership.

The move to give the Post Office more commercial freedom by offering staff a 49 per cent share of the business would improve industrial relations and help avoid a damaging spate of new strikes by Office workers this autumn. Page 1

## Test broadcasts may be auctioned

■ Television rights for cricket Test matches may be sold to the highest bidder under proposals being considered by the Government to give subscription channels the chance to bid for some of the "Crown Jewels" of sporting events. The sale could raise up to £150 million for a four-year contract but it would outrage British cricket lovers who are used to the BBC. Page 1

## Stage craft

Sir Peter Hall accused the Canadian owners of the Old Vic of bringing his repertory company to the London theatre only in order to boost its value before putting it up for sale. Page 1

## Common touch

The Royal Opera House wants to appoint an ordinary Joe — or Josephine — to its board for the first time as part of a drive to shed its elitist image. Page 1

## Town hall crisis

Early retirement deals for senior town council bureaucrats have contributed to a pensions crisis that is threatening to wreck vital services and drive up council tax bills. Page 2

## Plea to Queen

Delhi has appealed to the Queen to abandon a planned visit to Amritsar during her state visit to India and Pakistan. Page 3

## Cartoon capers

Bugs Bunny is corrupting young American minds by reinforcing gender stereotypes. Two psychologists complained there are more dominant male characters in the cartoon world than female ones. Page 4

## New Tube map

A new map has been designed to try to stop visitors getting lost on the Underground. The map is geographically accurate and shows how the lines relate to city streets above. Page 13

## Casanova loses his sexiness

■ Casanova was not the arch-seducer of legend but a scholar, diplomat and even religious thinker whose reputation as a lover rests largely on his own heavily embroidered and partly fictitious account, according to several new Italian studies. Next month a play in Vicenza will present the more sober and serious side of the great lady killer. Page 12



A woman uses a lotus leaf to shelter against the light rain as she strolls with her niece along the south side of Beijing's Forbidden City

## BUSINESS

**Market fears:** The future of the 16-year-old bull market is at risk this week as London's dealers prepare to slice 1 per cent from blue chip stocks before Wall Street opens. Page 44

**Flotation:** The National Grid hopes to float Eneris, its telecommunications arm, in a deal valued at £1 billion. Page 44

**Pension pressure:** Pension funds are coming under increasing pressure to dump traditional allegiances with the largest investment managers after the big-name firms returned dismal results. Page 44

**Hospital food:** A private health insurer is hoping to gain an edge by offering post-operative haute cuisine from one of Britain's top chefs. Page 17

**Elvis mania:** Delirious fans wept openly as a "virtual" Elvis Presley performed "live" for nearly three hours at a concert to mark the 20th anniversary of his death. Page 11

**Hess men:** Violent protests erupted in Germany and Denmark as Nazis tried to dodge German police to demonstrate their allegiance to Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's deputy. Page 12

**Valley of Dreams:** In California's Silicon Valley, 62 millionaires were made every day last year as a high-tech company went public on average every five days. Page 13

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